Senate to probe OFW deals after Saudis cut wages

STORY ON PAGE A2

RP readies Iraq contingency plan

THE GOVERNMENT has put in place contingency plans for some 1.5 million Filipinos working and living in the Middle East in case the United States attacks Iraq.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople has convened an "inter-agency crisis management and security committee" to discuss ways of securing and evacuating

RP/A14

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

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'Sabah cops made Filipinas sex slaves'

Illegals reveal ordeal

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BONGAO, Tawi-Tawi—Seven policemen in Tauao, Malaysia, are making sex slaves of detained Filipino Christian women, according to Filipinos recently expelled from that country.

In an interview at the Datu Halun Sakilan Memorial Hospital here, Mohsin Akbirul of South Laud in Siasi, Sulu, identified the leader of the alleged predators as a Private Azri of the Tauao Police Station.

Akbirul named two women, one of whom, he said, was "the most requested Christian Filipina" by the Tauao police.

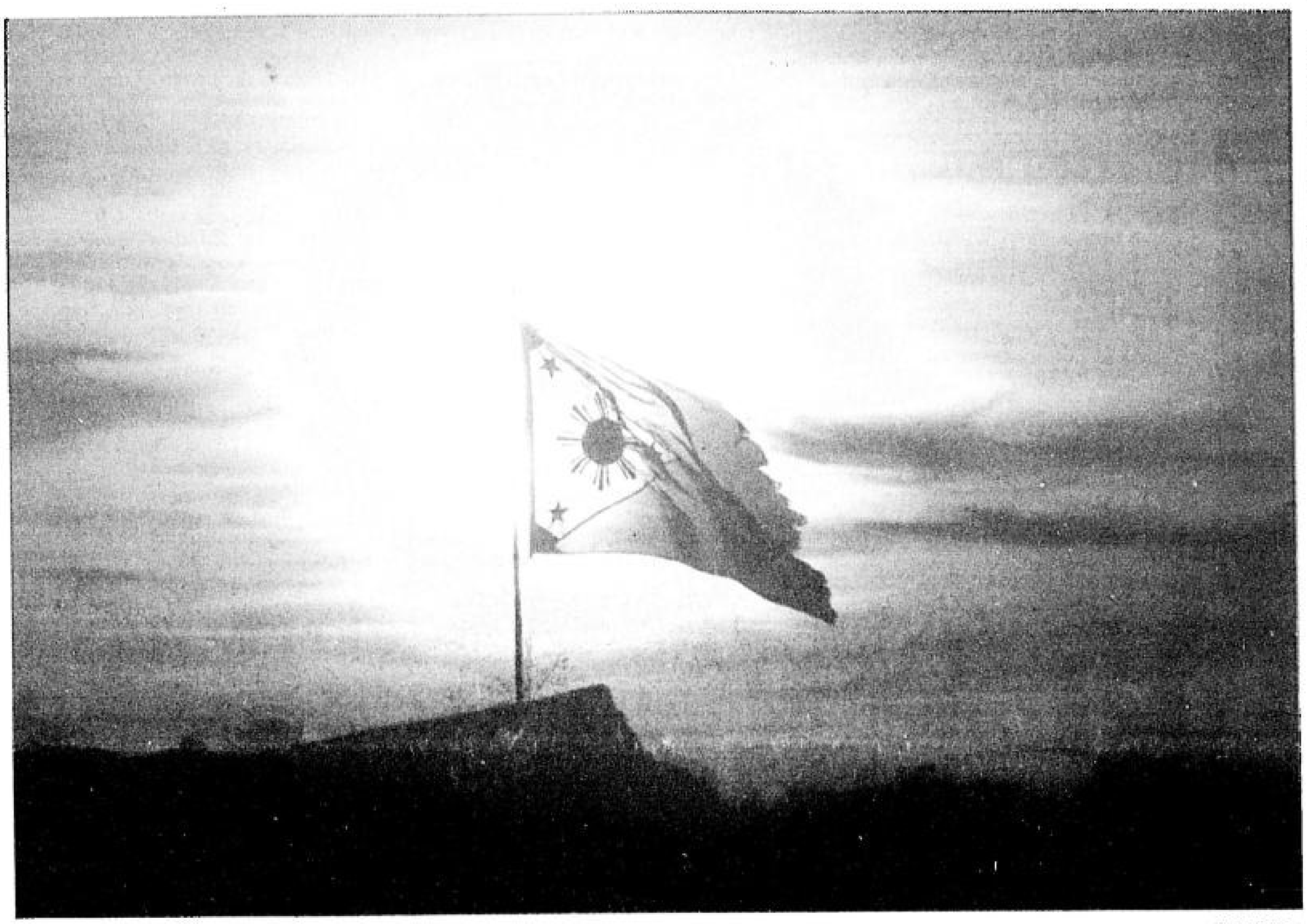
"They are seven in all and their leader is Azri. He is handsome and tall, but crude and offensive," Akbirul, 43, said in Filipino.

Akbirul said a woman would be taken out of the detention cell and brought to an upstairs room, which the policemen would subsequently enter one by one. He said the woman would emerge from the room late at night.

Innah Ayyul of Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi said she often saw the policemen ordering female Christian prisoners to go to the second floor of the station.

"They choose those who are good-looking and fair-skinned, and they never choose their fel-

SABAH/A16



JESS YUSON

STATE OF THE NATION?
A shanty in a squatter colony on Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City hoists a flag at sunset. Tattered and worn, the national colors yet snap proudly in the wind.

RP team asks Sabah officials for leniency

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
in Manila
and Dennisonde Selena Baling
PDI Mindanao Bureau

A NINE-MEMBER Philippine team left yesterday for Sabah to visit the detention camps of Filipinos scheduled for expulsion and to recommend "a better procedure" for their transport.

"We will appeal to the authorities there to be lenient, to allow us a breathing spell to do our diplomatic channeling to negotiate for a better procedure in transporting our citizens due to be deported," team leader Nur Jaafar said at a press briefing in Malacañang hours before they left at 3:20 p.m. for Kota Kinabalu via Malaysian Airlines.

But the team does not have the luxury of time.

In Sandakan, the health condition of at least 450 Filipino men, women and children on board Philippine Navy and Coast Guard ships is critical, and the food supply is running dry.

"We're dying here," Rizma Watari, a mother of two, said in Tausug. "We've been wanting to

RP TEAM/A16

Estrada denies role in Naia 3 contract

By Volt Contreras
and Christine Avendaño

DON'T blame me, blame my transportation secretary.

That in sum was the argument of deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday, who issued a statement saying he had nothing to do with allegedly onerous provisions in the controversial Naia Terminal 3 contract.

His Partido ng Masang Pilipino issued the statement on the same day senior Macapagal administration officials said the government remained committed to privatization.

Estrada said it was Transportation Secretary Vicente Rivera who in 1998 signed the amendments to the contract.

The document "never reached the Office of the President" when it was undergoing review, Estrada noted.

"Rivera should be asked why he signed those provisions which proved to be detrimental to the interest of the government and the public," said the ex-President, who is detained on unrelated plunder charges.

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, who served as Estrada's executive secretary, also disclaimed any knowledge of the amendments which Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said was the source of the onerous provisions.

"This contract did not reach the executive secretary's office or the Office of the President," Zamora said. "It went through the mill, first with (the National Economic and Development Authority) and then the Department of Transportation and Communication."

It was "unfair" to make insinuations that "things were cooked up in the Palace" during Estrada's term, he added.

In Congress, a vocal critic of the proposed government buyout of Naia 3 concessionaire

ESTRADA/A14

Release of 122 Chinese poachers questioned

By Dominique Monera-Tabora, Geraldford Ticke and Diwa Aquino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The head of the military's Western Command has misgivings over the Department of Foreign Affairs' pronouncement to release 122 Chinese fishermen who were caught at the Tubbataha Reef in Palawan early this year.

"We cannot let their case pass. They have committed a grave offense, especially because they went to a protected area," Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr. said.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople earlier said the 122 poachers would be released in time for the arrival this month of Li Peng, chair of the National People's Congress of China.

Carranza pointed out that the Chinese "went inside our territory" and engaged in "illegal (cyanide) fishing."

He had no objections to DFA plans to let go the 14 Chinese poachers arrested on Saturday at the Scarborough Shoal off the coast of Zambales.

The DFA said that no criminal charges would be filed against the 14 Chinese and they would be turned over to the Chinese Embassy within the next two to three days.

Carranza said the violations committed by the Chinese fishermen arrested at the Tubbataha Reef, a national ma-

RELEASE/A16

YEHEEEY!!! MAY DIPLOMA NA TAYO!
AT LAST!

High school diploma came 60 years late

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—It took them 60 years, but on Sunday the surviving members of Tarlac National High School's Class of 1942 finally received a piece of valuable paper they earned a lifetime ago: their high school diploma.

The Class of 1942 was supposed to have graduated on March 22, 1942, but the outbreak of World War II the previous December upset that

HIGH/A14

Grumbling starts in military over choice of Defensor

By Martin P. Marfil

FOR JUST 48 hours, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor would serve as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines if named to the top military post, but his tour of duty would likely be extended.

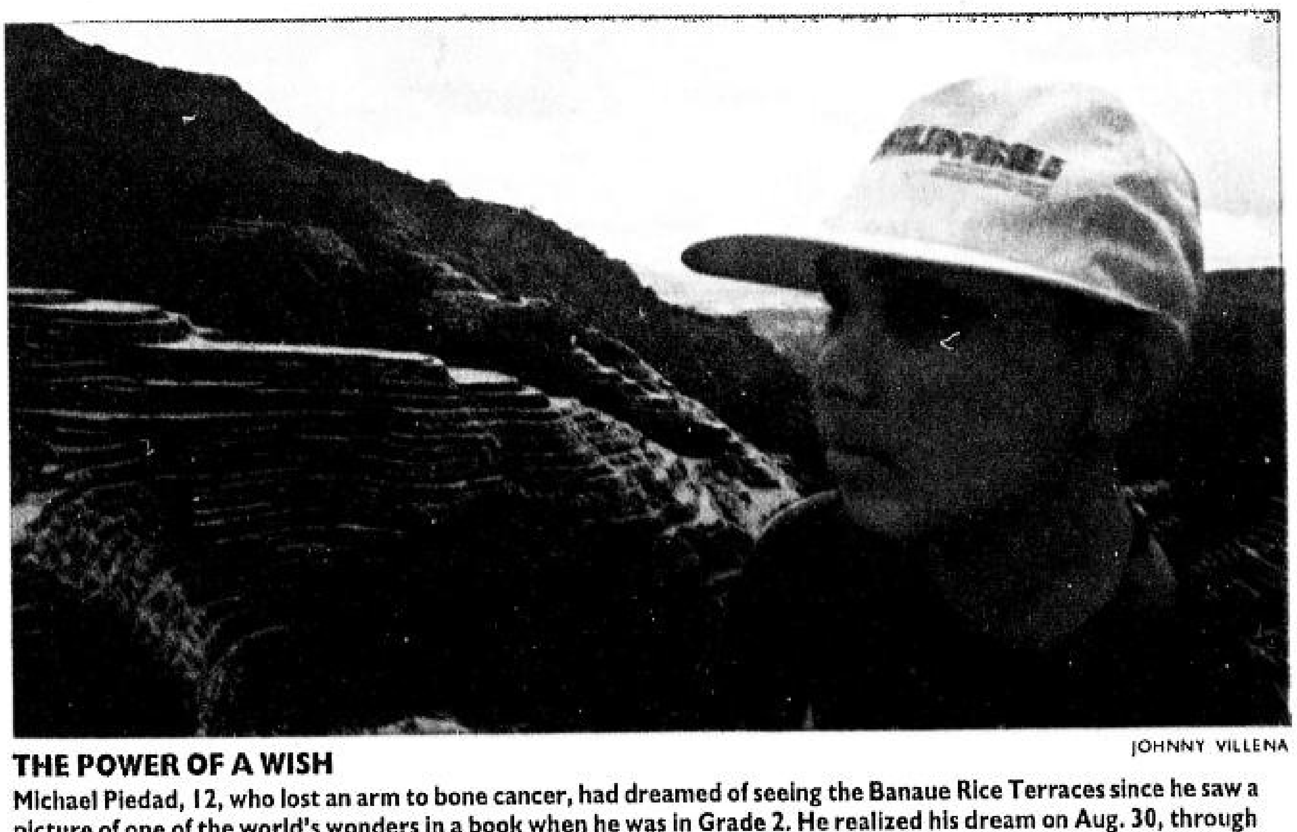
This possibility, based on information passed on by a Malacañang insider, stirred yesterday a hornet's nest in the military establishment.

Through text messages and interviews, officers warned that naming Defensor to the post to be vacated by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu on Sept. 10 would mean demoralization, stagnation and discontent within the military.

"It's plain and simple political accommodation at the expense of the institution. He'll retire in two days and his tour of duty will likely be extended," an officer, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER.

Defensor will reach the mandatory retirement age of

GRUMBLING/A14



JOHNNY VILLENA

THE POWER OF A WISH
Michael Piedad, 12, who lost an arm to bone cancer, had dreamed of seeing the Banaue Rice Terraces since he saw a picture of one of the world's wonders in a book when he was in Grade 2. He realized his dream on Aug. 30, through the efforts of the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the Kythe-Philippine Orthopedic Center and the Department of Tourism.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/03/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

After crime, Gloria turns attention back to economy

By Carlito Pablo

SEEING no immediate recovery in the world economy, particularly that of the United States, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she was shifting her focus from crime fighting to reviving the domestic economy.

"We're going back to the road map," said the President in a speech in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija. She said she intended to concentrate on helping small and medium enterprises, which she believes will lead the way to recovery.

Ms Macapagal was in Nueva Ecija to grace festivities commemorating the province's role as one of the eight provinces that started the 1896 revolt against Spanish rule.

The President noted that the government's anti-crime campaign was currently chalking up successes, and that the peace and order situation was much better.

But, she teased, she would still be available for photo opportunities with the police and arrested criminals. Before this, she had largely ignored criticisms of her participation in these photo sessions.

A trained economist, President Macapagal said she planned to adopt Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's "consumption-based, managed-asset reflation," formula. The scheme enabled Thailand to rebuild its economy after the US and Japanese economies both went into recession.

"In simple words," she said, "this means we will not rely on exports because America, the number one importer in the world, has not completed its economic recovery, (and therefore) we cannot rely on her."

Otherwise, she warned, Philippine exports could plunge for the second straight year. "Instead of an export orientation, we will strengthen domestic demand. And those that efficiently use capital are small and medium enterprises."

Ms Macapagal promised that these sectors would receive greater attention from the government in the form of, among other things, loans and low-interest rates.

"Let's not be complacent," she said. "World exports will (soon) decrease because of hardships in America."

But in order to keep interest rates down, the President said, government should maintain a prudent monetary policy, like keeping the budget deficit in check. ***With a report from AFP***

Senate to probe OFW deals after Saudis cut wages

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SENATE will look into labor agreements signed by the Philippines with other countries to determine if a pattern of signing onerous contracts in behalf of Filipino workers by Philippine officials existed.

Sen. Manuel Villar made the announcement after testimony by labor officials led by Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas of the Department of Labor and Employment showed the DOLE had failed to protect the interests of Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia.

Villar, chair of the committee on foreign relations, was presiding over an inquiry into an agreement between DOLE and the Saudi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs that effectively reduced the minimum wage of unskilled Filipino workers in the kingdom from $200 to $130 a month.

"The committee would want to be quite active in reviewing any agreements that they (DOLE) entered into with other countries," Villar told the INQUIRER at the end of the Senate hearing.

"I want to see if they are indeed signing onerous agreements," he added.

At the hearing, Sto. Tomas said that as far as the DOLE was concerned, the "agreement" with the Saudis was not final since the "onerous" provisions cited by Villar were found only in the minutes of their meetings with the Saudis in Saudi Arabia on May 25-28 this year.

Sto. Tomas, however, admitted having signed each page of the minutes of the meeting.

Villar pointed out that while the Philippines did not consider the minutes an agreement, this was not the case with the Saudis.

"We could be technical about this and say that we still don't have an agreement, but the reality is the government of Saudi Arabia can say we already talked about this," Villar said.

"As far as the Saudi government is concerned, they can now use the minutes as a basis for future policies regarding our workers there," he added.

Villar said the Philippine labor panel did not negotiate well with the Saudis, judging from the outcome of their meetings.

He said there was a need to send a "better panel" in order to rectify the onerous provisions in the agreement and protect Filipinos in the Arab kingdom.

"The question is whether they negotiated well. To me it all boils down to—we could have gotten a better deal," he said.

Among the provisions in the agreement which Villar deemed "unfavorable" to OFWs were:

- Declaring as legally binding the waivers signed by distressed OFWs while in Saudi Arabia before leaving their Saudi employers, barring them from pursuing complaints against their employers.
- Giving the responsibility of job order verification to Saudi licensed agencies, in effect lessening the protection of OFWs against jobs that tend to be exploitative.
- Declaring that in case the employer delays on purpose the repatriation of workers, the latter may file a petition with the Saudi Labor Office of the Saudi Labor Committees for immediate repatriation.

Villar said the Senate investigation will propose corrective measures to ensure that the rights and interests of OFWs are not compromised.

"We must not tolerate shabby treatment of our OFWs who bring billions of dollars into the economy and help keep it afloat," he said.

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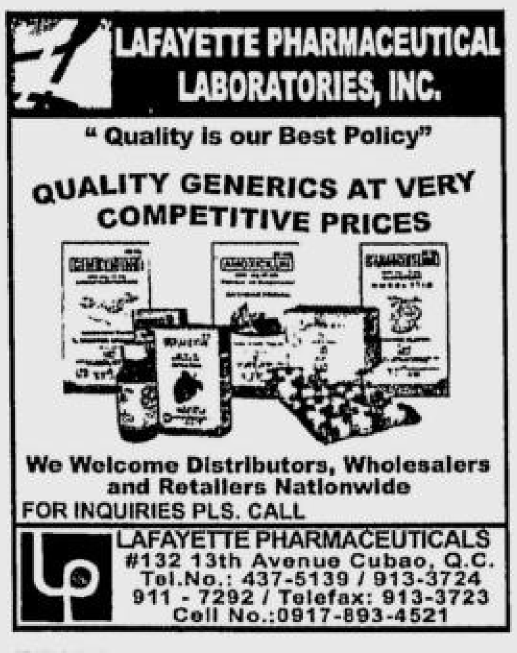
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Estrada lawyers 'badgering' Chavit, prosecutors charge

By Volt Contreras and Michael Lim Ubac

STATE prosecutors in the Estrada plunder trial yesterday complained about the excessively lengthy cross-examination of their star witness, former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"This is already bordering on badgering," said Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, on learning that the counsels *de oficio* of deposed ex-President Joseph Estrada still refused to let go of Singson.

The Estrada lawyers, led by Prospero Crescini, have been grilling Singson since July 31, attacking his credibility and citing purported inconsistencies between his earlier statements at Estrada's impeachment trial and the Sandiganbayan court proceedings.

Crescini said his cross-examination of Singson would end tomorrow.

But another Estrada lawyer, Manuel Pamaran, is expected to start another round of cross-examinations—this time representing Estrada's co-accused son Jinggoy.

In a related development, the Ombudsman's Office is set to go after the properties of another close Estrada ally, so-called plastics king William Gatchalian who allegedly benefited from the P3.2-billion Jose Velarde bank account alleged to belong to Estrada.

Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio will file this week a writ of preliminary attachment to compel the Sandiganbayan to issue a freeze order on the assets of Gatchalian's Wellex Group.

Ombudsman officials said the properties of Wellex, which is engaged in the hotel business, should be placed in the Sandiganbayan's custody because it was believed to have received a P500-million loan from Estrada in February 2000 using money drawn from the Velarde account.

Last Aug. 26, the anti-graft court ordered a freeze on bank deposits believed to have been illegally amassed by Estrada, including the Jose Velarde account.

The latest move to go after the Gatchalian properties came after negotiations to compel the ethnic Chinese businessman to testify against his friend Estrada reportedly bogged down.

Jalosjos' sister takes over his House seat

THE PEOPLE of Zamboanga del Norte's first district finally have someone to represent them in Congress.

And she is no other than Cecilia Jalosjos-Carreon, sister of the former congressman and convicted rapist Romeo Jalosjos, who took her oath as a member of the House yesterday.

The Supreme Court upheld Jalosjos' rape conviction in 1997. Last May, the House passed a resolution declaring his seat vacant and calling for special elections.

On Aug. 26, the Commission on Elections declared the 47-year-old Carreon, the youngest of the seven Jalosjos siblings, the winner in the special elections.

She is expected to finish her brother's term which ends in 2004.

Jalosjos won his third and last term as congressman in the May 2001 elections. He carried out his congressional duties from his cell at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa. ***Christine Avendaño***

Ex-rebel shot dead

LEGAZPI CITY—Two unidentified teenagers believed to be new recruits of the New People's Army on a test mission shot dead a former comrade at the victim's residence in Barangay Bitan-o, at 2 a.m. on Friday.

Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, Sorsogon police director, said Gerardo B. Espinas Sr., 53, sustained eight bullet wounds in different parts of the body.

Espinas' wife Aurea, 47, who was on the porch with him during the attack, was also shot.

The victim was rushed to a hospital but died later. Aurea is under intensive care at another hospital with four bullet wounds in her lower right extremities.

Aurea said her husband was an NPA member from 1970 to 1973, operating in Albay as finance officer. He was captured in Albay in 1973, and subsequently granted amnesty. ***Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

BIR officials tagged in Landbank scam

By Clarissa S. Batino

"THEY could have been heroes."

Newly appointed Commissioner Guillermo Parayno of the Bureau of Internal Revenue yesterday revealed that seven BIR officials were involved in the P432-million tax diversion scam uncovered in the Binangonan branch of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Parayno, who was sworn into office last Friday, said his first official act was to endorse to the BIR internal affairs department the probe and filing of charges against the seven officials whom he refused to name.

"They failed to detect spurious evidence of tax payments related to the Landbank case," he said. "They could have been heroes."

Former BIR chief Rene Bañez had left on his desk the directive to investigate the officials and file appropriate charges. Bañez resigned on Aug. 19 out of frustration over the bureau employees' resistance to reforms he had initiated.

Parayno said the officials implicated in the tax diversion scam were involved in the monitoring of stop-filers, and should have been alerted to the irregularity long before a Landbank employee revealed the fraud in late July.

Landbank cashier Acsa Ramirez reported that payments of nine large taxpayers were diverted—that is, cleared, deposited and withdrawn from four fictitious accounts under the names Roberto Lucero, Alma Clemente, Jose Francisco and Joven Aquino.

The new BIR chief said he has also forwarded to the Office of the Solicitor General the tax evasion cases against 11 companies found to have underdeclared their value-added taxes.

He said this was discovered during the ongoing audit of small and medium taxpayers initiated by Bañez in May.

Parayno refused to identify the companies until the solicitor general has filed the charges. He vowed that the BIR would not enter into a compromise agreement with the tax cheats.

"We need to show the people that we will not tolerate those who cheat the government," said Parayno, a former military official, and Customs commissioner during the Ramos administration.

The 11 firms were among 577 companies audited in the past three months. The audit has resulted in the discovery of discrepancies amounting to P700 million, representing the 10 percent VAT out of sales and services totaling P7 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the ongoing review was likely to uncover more tax evasion cases. He vowed that tax payments of big companies would be audited next.

He urged firms depriving the government of much-needed revenues to file for reassessment before they get caught.

President Macapagal-Arroyo brought with her a team of lawyers from the justice department during the BIR's 98th anniversary last Aug. 1, to help the bureau file cases against erring small and medium firms.

Simultaneously, Parayno vowed to improve BIR systems, initially to reduce the level of corruption, and eventually to wipe it out.

"We have to improve the BIR's image," said the new BIR chief.

SPAV goes through Senate wringer

By Rocky Nazareno

LIKE walking the proverbial tightrope, the passage through the Senate of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) bill may be subjected to voting every step of the way, despite Malacañang's rush to pass the measure.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo noted that "the SPAV bill is so contentious this may result in (senators) crossing party lines."

"We're getting mixed reactions from both sides," Arroyo said.

Sensitive as it is, Arroyo said, "each amendment to the current version of the bill being defended by Senate ways and means committee chair Ralph Recto would have to be voted upon separately."

But time is running out for the SPAV bill with only two days left before Congress goes on recess.

Debates on the proposed measure dragged on well into the night yesterday as Arroyo and Senators John Osmeña, Sergio Osmeña III, Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. registered their intent to interpolate Recto.

"There was a commitment that we would finish the interpolations by tomorrow, which is a major portion of the debate. We hope to finish everything by Wednesday evening," said Senate President Franklin Drilon, after yesterday afternoon's all-senators caucus.

Senate majority leader Loren Legarda said that while Malacañang has certified two bills as urgent—the SPAV and the privatization of the National Transmission Commission (Transco)—only the SPAV may be passed.

"Assuming the House transmits the Transco bill to the Senate tomorrow, we would still have to hold committee hearings—that would be quite difficult," Legarda said.

But she did not totally dash hopes for the passage of the SPAV bill.

"We will try our best to pass the SPAV bill. But we do not want to rush it because there may be technical details which might be overlooked," she said.

'These shoes were made for banging'

SENATE President Franklin Drilon said last night he felt so angry and embarrassed after he was made to take his shoes off at the San Francisco International Airport on Sunday while on his way back to the Philippines.

Drilon was in San Francisco to deliver a speech to the Filipino community in San Jose, California.

"I was so angry. I already introduced myself. I showed them my diplomatic passport," said the Senate chief, who is the third highest-ranking official of the country.

Drilon, however, said he did not make an issue of the demand by airport authorities that he remove his shoes.

But reports said Drilon angrily banged his shoes on the flat surface used for inspection. ***Cynthia D. Balana***

Illegal Metro dumpsites shut

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered the closure of five open dumpsites being operated in Parañaque City and Taytay, Rizal.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez issued yesterday Notices of Violation to Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez and Taytay Mayor June Zapanta, after teams from the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) confirmed the operation of the dumpsites in the two localities.

In separate letters to Marquez and Zapanta, Alvarez cited possible violations of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which states that "no open dumpsites shall be established... by any person, including LGUs, which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid waste."

In Parañaque City, the NSWMC team discovered dumpsites on Doña Soledad Avenue and Cul de Sac Road, both in Sun Valley; in Greenville Subdivision, and inside the old cemetery in Himlayang Palanyag, San Dionisio.

The open dumpsite in Taytay, Rizal, is located on Kenneth Road, Barangay Sta. Ana, and is reportedly owned by a certain Fermo Rivas. It too is located in a densely populated residential area. ***Gerald G. Lacuarta***

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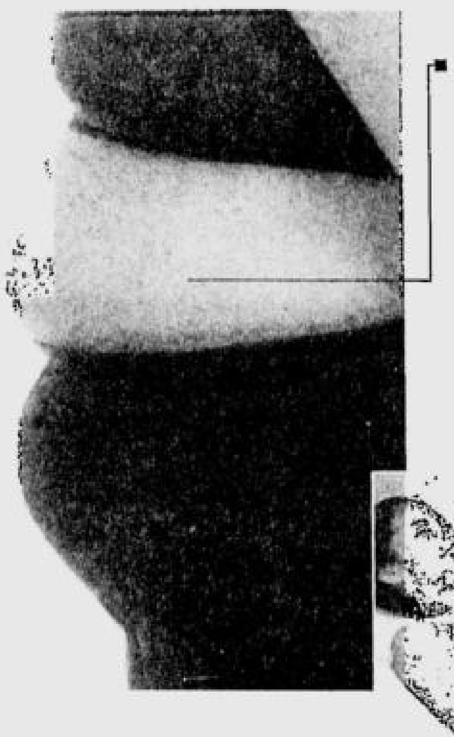

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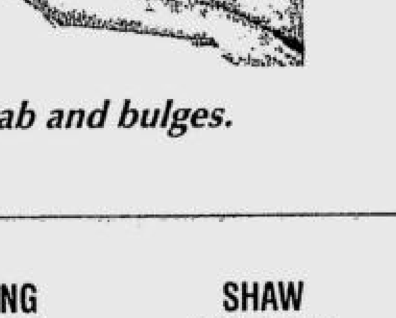

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PIATCO Got Only What It Deserved!

The country has a simple and straightforward answer to the question PIATCO lawyers ask: "What has it done to deserve the treatment it is now receiving?"

It is this: **PIATCO cheated the entire country.** And is still misleading our people. The truth has prevailed, has come out — and PIATCO has been overtaken by the inexorable march of the truth.

Undercapitalized PIATCO: Hungry for Loans

PIATCO (formerly the PairCargo Consortium) masterminded the conspiracy to win the NAIA Terminal 3 Concession Agreement even if it was not financially qualified.

At that time, it only had an unrestricted net worth of P558 million and the required minimum equity for the project was P2.7 billion. Inspite of that, PIATCO was awarded the contract in complete disregard of DOTC rules — which expressly provided that the **bidder's financial capability at the time of pre-qualification was required.**

This rigging of the bid process to unduly favor PIATCO, and for which it is solely to blame, made it necessary for undercapitalized PIATCO, following NAIA T3 contract award, to borrow money.

Because it had no financial capability to undertake the project on its own, potential lenders required government to guarantee PIATCO's loans. This resulted in substantial changes to the original Concession Agreement of July 12, 1997, which was supplanted and substituted by the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (ARCA) on November 26, 1998. **The BOT Law not only prohibits substantial changes to the original Concession Agreement; it also forbids government guarantee of PIATCO's obligations.**

Onerous Amendments Keyed to Make Scandalous Profits

Other onerous and disadvantageous amendments to the original Concession Agreement were also introduced to satisfy PIATCO's insatiable greed in raking in scandalous profits from the Terminal 3 project to the prejudice of the Filipino people.

These unacceptable amendments include:

- ☐ Increase of the passenger terminal fee from P550 to US$20, which is the highest fee charged by any ASEAN country;
- ☐ Giving PIATCO a monopoly of international airport operation in Luzon, thereby unduly preventing the development of other international airports, like Clark International Airport in Pampanga;
- ☐ Monopoly of all service operations in Terminal 3 in violation of the Constitution;
- ☐ Grossly lopsided amount of damages to be paid by Government to PIATCO in case of breach that would run to at least US$1 billion, compared to the minuscule amount of 1% of the annual guaranteed payments at the time of breach, to be paid by PIATCO to Government;
- ☐ Restricting Government's responsibility to regulate public utility and other fees in Terminal 3; and
- ☐ Subordination of guaranteed payments to Government in favor of Senior Lenders.

PIATCO Contract Makes Gov't Loser, Defenseless

Overpricing of materials, bloating of costs of subterranean works, and questionable consultancy fees — these contributed to ballooning the original project cost of US$350 million to US$650 million. Worse is that the Government ends up paying for all these costs, even if PIATCO defaults.

As a final crippling blow to Government, and in order to hold the Filipino people hostage to the terms of an unlawful contract, PIATCO also made sure that any material provision in ARCA that will be declared illegal even by the Supreme Court, will subject Government to enormous liabilities to PIATCO! **This effectively prevented Government from going to Court to seek the nullification of ARCA.**

Despite all these, PIATCO, like a brat, cries foul and claims that Government cannot unilaterally cancel ARCA. **This reminds us of the story of a man who murdered his parents and begged the court to be lenient with him because he is an orphan!**

Adamant Local Partner Worries Foreign Investor

Why shouldn't PIATCO instead go to court, since it is not barred from doing so, to question Government's action in protecting the interest of the Filipino people? Better still, why couldn't PIATCO agree to accept changes in ARCA to conform with the law?

PIATCO's foreign investor, Fraport AG, has offered Government to take over Terminal 3 upon completion. In a laudably remarkable display of cooperation, and marked by a high sense of propriety, Fraport — which has bankrolled almost all of PIATCO's operating capital — has graciously agreed to take a significant cut in its investment.

Strangely, the Cheng Yong group, which has put in only US$16.5 million, insists on the legality of ARCA, and is unwilling to accept any discount. Typical of its opportunistic bent, PIATCO has reportedly offered to sell its interest to Fraport for a hefty US$200 million!

PIATCO has no basis to complain when Government takes action to rescind the contract because it is onerous. In fact, because of ARCA, Government has no choice.

But more importantly, it is the duty of Government to declare ARCA void from the beginning if PIATCO continues to be adamant in refusing to accede to changes in Agreement to protect the national interest.

The Filipino people are proud of the zeal and determination of Secretary Gloria Tan-Climaco in standing her ground for what is right. We thank the President for appointing such an honest, principled and courageous official.

What has come upon PIATCO?
PIATCO is getting only what it deserves!

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Malampaya gas project scores at Earth Summit

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FOR A CHANGE, the international limelight shines on the Philippines for something decidedly positive.

The Malampaya natural gas project in Palawan was chosen as one of the "Top Ten Best Examples of Sustainable Development Partnerships in Action" in the World Summit Business Awards.

The award was given by the International Chamber of Commerce and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) at the ongoing World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In recognizing the Malampaya project, the UNEP and IPP cited the effective multi-stakeholder partnerships between the Philippine government, Shell Exploration Phil. and non-government organizations which, they said, has ensured that the natural gas project does not harm the environment and the host communities.

The project, known as the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project, involves the extraction of natural gas located 1 kilometer beneath the sea off the coast of Palawan and the laying of a 500-km underwater pipeline across some of the country's most environmentally sensitive areas—the waters of the South China Sea and the coastal areas of Mindoro island and Batangas province.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, who headed the Philippine delegation to the Johannesburg summit as the personal representative of President Macapagal-Arroyo, received the award on Aug. 31 with Shell Phil. deputy managing director Facundo Roco.

The Malampaya project is a joint undertaking of the Philippine government, which owns 10 percent through the Philippine National Construction Corp., and Shell Exploration Phil., a unit of the UK-based Royal Dutch Shell, and the US-based Texaco Corp. which jointly own 80 percent.

Around $2 billion is being spent to extract 3.4 trillion cubic ft of natural gas in Malampaya and put up an offshore, high-pressure gas pipeline from Palawan to Batangas.

"Even before the planning was done and the pipelines were laid, there had been consultations with the communities," Alvarez said in his acceptance speech. "There was already a forward quest for sustainable development."

Launched last year, Malampaya heralded the birth of the Philippine natural gas industry. When fully operational, it will provide 30 percent of the country's energy requirements and significantly reduce the country's dependency on fossil fuels.

Among the partner non-government organizations involved in the project are the World Wide Fund-Phil., Fauna and Flora International, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, Mindoro Kabuhayan Foundation Buklod Diwa Development Foundation, Balatasan Fisherman's Association, and the Center for Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency.

Alvarez also cited the important role played by Filipino engineers and laborers in the Malampaya project.

Roco, a younger brother of former Education Secretary Raul Roco, said it was the project's "sustainable partnerships" which won the award for the Philippines.

Probe of Cuban OFW case sought

THE LABOR department should look into the reported dismissal of 20 Filipino workers recruited to work in the United States military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for attempting to form a union, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said yesterday.

She said the Dole should determine, with the help of the foreign affairs department, whether the rights of the workers were violated when they were fired.

The Dole should scrutinize the contracts to find out if there was indeed a prohibition against the forming of unions, she said.

"If there is no such restriction, then the Dole should help the workers seek redress for illegal dismissal," Oreta said.

The 20 dismissed workers hired to build detention cells for captured terrorists inside the US naval facility were fired and sent home for allegedly forming a union and demanding more benefits.

The 20 dismissed workers were part of an initial batch of Filipinos hired and sent to Guantanamo Bay last March. Most of them were construction supervisors earning at least P75,000 a month.

Oreta said the dismissed workers who had six-month work contracts could go after their recruiters if it is determined that their rights had been violated.

Cynthia Balana

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Lighting a candle

EDITORIAL

IT'S BETTER to light a candle than curse the darkness, says a Chinese proverb.

For decades, most Filipinos have been cursing the darkness that has shrouded our land, but they have not done anything about it. They complain about the political and economic system that is to blame for many of the ills in the country but they have not presented solutions. Many have given up on the land of their birth and have left for other countries where they believe they can enjoy a better life. About one-fifth of the population said in a recent survey that they would leave for other countries if they had the means and opportunity to do so. They are throwing up their hands in despair, saying that the situation in the Philippines is hopeless.

Now, here comes a group that thinks that the situation is not that hopeless. Unlike most Filipinos, they won't curse the darkness but instead light a candle to illuminate it. About 10 days ago, a group headed by a gun control campaigner, a veteran lawyer and Catholic lay leaders launched "Kapatiran para sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan (Political Movement for the Common Good)," a party that they said would offer an alternative in the 2004 elections.

Reynaldo "Nandy" Pacheco, Kapatiran chair and head of the Gunless Society, said that the party would develop an enlightened and responsible citizenry through character development and value formation. He said it also would promote a consistent ethic of life, a new kind of politics and a strong and responsible two-party system. The party will field local and national candidates who are morally upright, academically qualified, experienced and competent and who believe in the principles, values and objectives of Kapatiran.

Lawyer Mario Ongkiko, Kapatiran president, said the party would give voice to taxpayers who are disgusted with the present state of political affairs, as exemplified by lawmakers bickering over committee chairmanships and pork barrel funds. He said the party would promote a government which would provide basic needs and services to the people, restore peace and public order, expose corrupt public officials, foster the *bayanihan* spirit, promote individual and corporate sense of social responsibility and support projects to improve education, create jobs and improve the quality of life of the people.

Kapatiran will denounce hypocrisy in government and "dismantle social structures that glorify materialism, hedonism, vice, sex, violence and corruption." It will seek the abolition of the death penalty and the pork barrel system and the adoption of a two-party system.

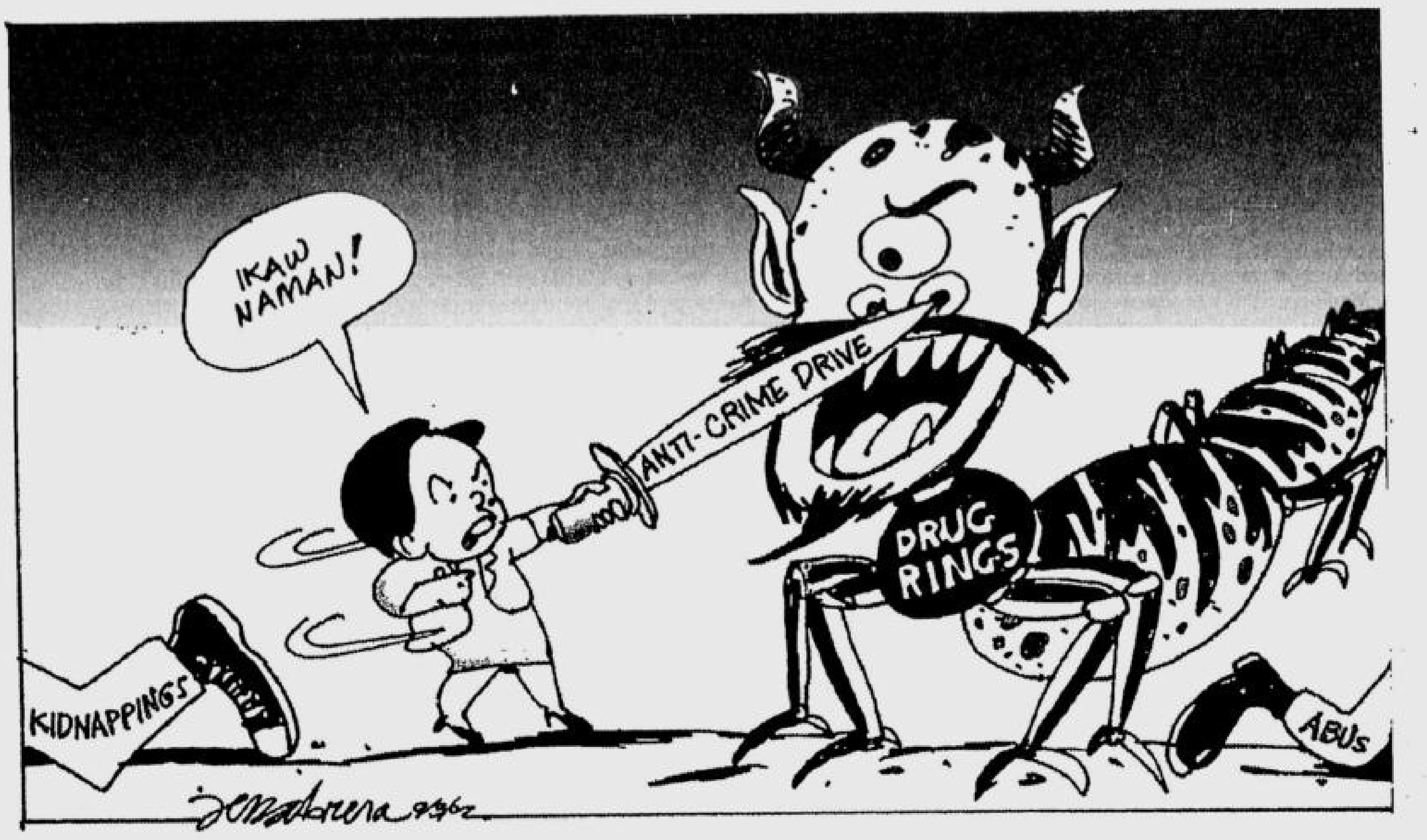
Kapatiran will form chapters in barangays, municipalities and cities. Ongkiko said that depending on the support it would get, the party would endorse or field candidates up to the provincial level in 2004.

Many will say that Kapatiran is another Quixotic venture of Pacheco whose Gunless Society at first was derided as an idealistic, impractical undertaking. Now, the concept of a society with stricter gun control is gaining more and more adherents.

There is evidence that an alternative political group can make some difference in Philippine politics. In the 1950s, Sen. Raul S. Manglapus formed the Progressive Party of the Philippines, a party of idealists that comprised a third force and presented an alternative to the two established national parties. The PPP did not make it big in the political scene at the time but it influenced the political thinking of many young leaders who were later to hold elective and appointive positions in government.

We hope that Kapatiran will bring about some change in Philippine politics. It will take some time and effort, of course, because its leaders will be tilting at strongly grounded and well-established windmills. But, as Cyrano de Bergerac said, while windmills may fling you down into the mud, they can also lift you up among the stars.

The leaders of Kapatiran may have the image of idealists, but they are not idle, impractical idealists. They have decided to cast off the attitude of apathy which has induced mental paralysis and is slowly killing the nation. They have recognized the problem and decided to do something about it. Unlike the great majority of Filipinos, they are not cursing the darkness. They are lighting a candle to try to illuminate and dispel it.



Good news for heart patients

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE is good news for those who are suffering from coronary artery disease (CAD). This is a life-threatening disease. The coronary arteries supplying the heart with blood is blocked by fatty deposits so that the flow of blood is impeded. When an artery is completely blocked by a blood clot or fatty deposit, the patient has a heart attack that can lead to death.

Previously, if the condition did not respond well to medication, the remedy was heart bypass surgery, an expensive, painful, risky operation in which the chest is opened, the heart stopped and veins taken from the legs are grafted to the coronary arteries to bypass the blocked portions.

Later, a less invasive procedure was devised: angioplasty. Here, a catheter with a balloon at the tip is inserted through the femoral artery to the coronary artery. The doctors and the patient can follow the progress of the catheter through closed-circuit television. When the tip reaches the blocked portion, the balloon is inflated and this pushes back the fatty deposit, thus widening the circumference of the artery and increasing blood flow. This is less painful and less costly, and the patient can go home after two days.

However, the artery usually become narrow again, sometimes in as short a time as three months, and the procedure has to be repeated. To prevent this occurrence (medically called "restenosis"), doctors started inserting a "stent," which is a small metal scaffolding, into the diseased artery and then expanded to prop open that portion permanently.

But heart disease is an obstinate one. The body found a way for the tissues to grow through and around the stent, thus making the artery narrow again. So doctors coated the stent with a drug that killed the cells around it to prevent growth. But the necrosis (death of the cells) induced scarring and increased the risk of blood clot formation.

Now comes Johnson & Johnson (yes, the same company that produces baby products) with a new stent that solves all those problems. And this is the good news. The new stent (trade name: "Cypher") is coated with an immune-system suppressant called "sirolimus" that controls cell growth but does not kill them. Sirolimus is a naturally occurring antibiotic marketed by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals under the name Rapamune, which is used to prevent rejection of transplanted kidneys. The drug was selected for its ability to stop cell growth, as opposed to other drugs that kill cells, such as those used to treat cancer, found in other coated stents.

At a press conference last week, Johnson & Johnson introduced to the Philippines its breakthrough technology that addresses one of the most stubborn problems in coronary artery disease treatment: the potential for "restenosis," or the renarrowing of diseased coronary arteries previously treated with balloon angioplasty. The Cypher stent has been used for the first time in the Philippines on Larry Henares, of "Make My Day" fame, in an emergency procedure last May 23, 2002. He is the first in the world to have received it in a repeat "in-stent" procedure. Previously, it was approved in Europe only for "de novo" (first time) procedures. Henares already had several repeat angioplasties.

In a clinical trial known as the "Ravel" study involving 238 patients at 19 centers across Europe and Latin America, Johnson & Johnson said that "Cypher Sirolimus-eluting Stent placed on patients with CAD dramatically reduced the incidence rate of restenosis to 0 percent compared to 26 percent for the conventional uncoated stent."

These "remarkable findings have been sustained for one year," said the Johnson & Johnson statement. The "Ravel" study also supports results from an earlier study done in Brazil and the Netherlands, and another wider clinical trial in the United States. Results showed "no complications for 94 percent of patients at 12 months," which is "far superior to the 71 percent event-free survival rate for patients in the control arm of the study."

In the US study, Johnson & Johnson said that "just under 5 percent of patients who got the new stents required a new procedure to reopen the treated vessel compared with nearly 17 percent who got a conventional stent."

Johnson & Johnson said that "worldwide, more than 1.3 million people undergo balloon angioplasty each year, but 25 percent to 30 percent of the cases result in restenosis, caused by repeat build-up of fatty deposits or the growth of scar tissue at the artery wall that was disturbed by the placement of the stent. It is estimated that 2 percent to 30 percent of patients undergo repeat angioplasty within six months of the initial procedure." Johnson & Johnson's new stent will reduce that number.

The Wall Street Journal, reporting on the result of the US study, said that "some experts predict that 30 percent and perhaps as many as half of all bypass patients...might now be treated with the much less invasive procedure. Stents are implanted not by surgeons but by specialists known as interventional cardiologists."

The most painful part of Johnson & Johnson's new stent is not any surgical wound but the cost. Johnson & Johnson did not give any exact price but it is expected to be much more costly than the conventional ones, considering that it is far superior than the latter. However, it still comes out cheaper in the long run because repeat procedures—which can reach quite a bundle—will be avoided.

Double trouble

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAD an interesting discussion with a group of people last week on an aspect of the overseas vote. Someone asked the question, "Should we give the vote to Filipinos who have become American citizens?"

The group was divided. Those who favored it argued that most Filipinos in the United States became American citizens only out of convenience. Indeed, they said, the same was true of Filipinos in other countries who had changed their citizenship. They did so because it made for easier travel, or one without hassle, which Filipino citizens are routinely subjected to in many parts of the world. And of course, it allowed them to take advantage of the benefits of being a citizen of another country.

But though they had become American citizens—or European or other Asian ones—they had not really stopped being Filipinos. Not at heart. Their thoughts remained with the Philippines, their hopes remained with the Philippines, their retirement plans (at least in many cases) remained with the Philippines. That had been helped in no small way by the digital revolution which allowed them to keep track of events in this country, often with a diligence and passion little felt by the locals. That was shown by Edsa II, when Filipinos abroad, including those who had become citizens of other countries, made their sentiments known through the Internet. They might not have been physically present in the rallies and demonstrations that swept the country, but they were there in spirit. Without them, Erap might still be president now.

If dual citizenship passes, and they are all for helping Franklin Drilon push for it, the Filipinos who have become foreign citizens should get the right to vote.

I don't buy it.

I remember talking to a group of young Fil-Ams several months ago who also offered pretty much the same arguments. They were kids who were born in the United States and lived in the United States all their lives, which hadn't been very long. They were exchange students and had been absorbing the country like sponge all summer. They had been selected precisely because they had shown keen interest in the country of their parents' birth even while in the States. That interest, indeed involvement, in the country had been intensified by their stay here, which was a total eye-opener. They were all for dual citizenship. Giving up their American citizenship was out of the question—it brought with it numerous advantages. But they wanted to become citizens of this country, too, out of volition and *malasakit*.

After agreeing that dual citizenship brought some advantages, to this country as much as to them, I asked them several questions. Would they agree to be drafted into the Philippine army and fight for the Philippines in times of war? Would they be willing to pay taxes to the Philippines? Would they be willing to abide by the Constitution and laws of the Philippines?

To all of this, they answered no, with mock horror and no small amount of laughter. But that was the point, I said. We tend to think of citizenship only in terms of advantages and benefits. We do not think of citizenship in terms of duties and responsibilities. We think of citizenship only in terms of what we may derive from a country. We do not think of citizenship in terms of what we may give to a country.

That is the fly in the ointment that is dual citizenship. Or giving American citizens of Filipino origin the vote. People want to become American and Filipino citizens because it is easy to travel anywhere in the world as an American and easy to own property in the Philippines as a Filipino. But no one wants to pay taxes to both the Philippine and American governments. People want to become American and Filipino citizens because it is easy to get benefits in the United States as a local and easy to get benefits in the Philippines as a *balikbayan*. But no one wants to be conscripted to fight the Iraqis and the Abu Sayyaf. People want to become American and Filipino citizens because it entitles them to vote in the United States as an American and in the Philippines as a Filipino. But no one wants to be bound by the American and Filipino constitutions and laws.

At the very least, it gives power without accountability. It allows American citizens of Filipino origin to take part in this country's affairs without reaping the consequences of their actions. Things go well, as with Edsa II, and they can always claim to be one of its fathers. Things go bad, as with pretty much everything else in this country, and they can go back to being US citizens and have nothing to do with this country. They have no real stake in it.

In the end, it makes citizenship a very rubbery concept. I go back to what I said when Drilon first announced his bill on dual citizenship. We already have a loose sense of country, we define citizenship in this way and we won't have anything left. I myself have always argued that the lack of sense of country is our greatest bane, the ultimate source of our lack of progress. That is what separates us from our Southeast Asian neighbors, all of whom have a strong sense of identity and commitment to their flags. They rise and fall with their countries, we do not—we emigrate to America. Or those of us who can. We encourage Filipinos to think of citizenship, which is the most basic condition of their national being, as little more than the clothes they wear for fashion, or as the seasons dictate, and we might as well cease to exist as a country.

There are advantages, I grant. But they are far outweighed by the disadvantages. Even for the individual. You may always think that to be an American and Filipino is to have the best of both worlds. But you can always end up having the worst of both.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Build-operate-take over?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SCUTTLEBUTT is that Air Force chief Benjamin Defensor will succeed AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu in a few days. I knew General Defensor from the time he and my husband were both serving in the Department of National Defense and I like him a lot more than his feisty sister, former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. Benjie seems to have cornered most the charm in the family and he has enough capability too.

The problem is that he will be retiring on Sept. 12 or nine days from today. This means that in order to accommodate him, the President has to extend his tenure, just like that of Cimatu who was appointed last May and whose tenure was extended for two months after his retirement last July. *Masyado nang nagiging chop-chop ang posisyon ng AFP chief.* Because of this, no matter how the Palace denies it, Defensor's appointment will still look like a political courtship of Miriam.

The practice of having a general sit as chief of staff for three months or so is not good since he can accomplish very little in such a short time, not to mention the expense involved in the rigodon of supporting staff officers. If GMA really wants to reform and set the military aright, she should get someone who can serve long enough to make a difference.

* * *

On the Piatco controversy, the Palace's recent statement that what it wants is merely a review of the more onerous provisions of the government's contract with Piatco on Terminal 3 is an indication that the President may be distancing herself from the wild idea of Gloria Tan Climaco's group for the government to take over the new airport. Perhaps Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, who appears to be opposed to the takeover idea, has talked to her. At any rate, GMA should know that people are no longer reading "BOT" to mean "build-operate-transfer," but "build-operate-take over." In fact some are even saying it means "build-oppress-take over."

* * *

This review committee is headed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and includes Neda Director General Dante Canlas and Secretaries Richard Gordon, Leandro Mendoza and Climaco. I find it odd, however, that Climaco should be included, as it would be reviewing her takeover proposal, from which the President appears to be distancing herself. Moreover, Climaco has been issuing very harsh statements against Piatco and the Cheng group, showing her bias against them. In fact in the INQUIRER interview, she sounded like she was gloating that Terminal 3 won't be able to open this November.

Another reason Climaco should not be in that review committee is her closeness to the Carpio, Villaraza, Cruz lawyers who represented Lucio Tan's Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp. which lost to Piatco in the bidding.

* * *

It's lamentable that when Terminal 3 is 97-percent finished, it has to be subjected again to another "review," after seemingly interminable reviews starting March 2000 up to the present. Among the "reviews" were those undertaken twice by the House committee on transportation and communication in the 11th and the 12th Congresses, by the Ombudsman acting on various complaints against Piatco, by the regional trial court and by Neda. The Perez committee should get its work done fast, and if certain "onerous" provisions in the contract need to be renegotiated, let's get on with it so that this airport can open. Prolonging Piatco's agony gives this country a bad image before foreign investors.

* * *

Newspapers asked about a "mystery lady" named De Asis who was mentioned along with Climaco and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo in Fraport chief Ronald Koch's letter to the government, wherein he confirmed acceptance of Climaco's takeover proposal. Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino asked who this woman is, what role she played in the transaction, and to whom she is accountable. This column learned that the mystery lady is Joanne de Asis, who used to work with Climaco in Crown Equities. The buzz is that De Asis is acting as a broker between Fraport and Climaco.

* * *

The Erda Technical-Vocational High School was founded by Fr. Pierre Tritz, S.J. to train high school students from very poor families in Metro Manila in vocational skills that they can use immediately after graduation. A few weeks ago it sponsored a fund-raising concert in ethnic music under the direction of Anita Nowack, a Filipina resident of Germany, with the special participation of German Ambassador Herbert Jess as accompanying pianist for some high school performers. President Macapagal-Arroyo graced the occasion and donated P500,000, with the stipulation that the money be used to provide non-formal education to very poor young women of ages 17 to 21. GMA doubtless realized that this group is most vulnerable to disreputable activities.

* * *

That was just fine, for Erda-Tech has a non-formal technical-vocational skills training program called "Palitan ng Husay at Sanayan (Palihan)" that it has carried out with Unesco since 1977. Today Erda-Tech implements Palihan together with the government-run Marikina Institute of Science and Technology. Inspired by GMA's donation, Erda-Tech recently put up a "young women's desk" under the Palihan program to encourage young women to seek livelihood training (its experience is that more young men are eager to apply for training). Last Aug. 24 Erda-Tech held consultations with young women about non-formal skills as well as leadership training. A total of 62 participants gave their own ideas of the fields where they wanted training. Now the goals are clearer and a special training program for young women is underway. GMA's donation was a big boost.

One cheesy alien

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"SIGNS" is the kind of movie that you watch with your heart thumping in your throat, and the niggling fear that there's some "deep" highly significant message you're missing because you're so busy getting scared out of your wits. Only to walk out of the theater afterwards kicking yourself for getting suckered by both the scare tactics and the attempt to add intellectual depth to a thin storyline.

"Sixth Sense" has amply proven writer-director M. Night Shyamalan's talent for atmospherics. Both audiences and critics raved about his "small" movie's ability to draw movie watchers into the heart of the action, and then to interrupt the enveloping mood with the punch of a visual or aural scare. His exposition of the relationship between the troubled boy and the hardened psychologist flowed effortlessly, and viewers ended up caring deeply about what happened to them. Which, to my mind, only made the twist in the end that much more powerful.

But in "Signs," even if Shyamalan is up to his old tricks, building up mood and atmosphere until the tension is near unbearable, the net he casts over the audience is shot through with holes. Somehow, the emotional bond with the minister-farmer and his family remains tentative. I think it's because the characters played by Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix and the two children are generally morose and uncommunicative, one doesn't think it's worth the effort to connect to them. The suspense builds up at a leisurely pace, but instead of wallowing in the delicious chills of mysterious crop circles, dogs suddenly turning violent and inscrutable alien static, the viewer merely can't wait for Shyamalan to get to the point.

* * *

I'VE got a particular beef with "Signs" and it's the fact that, after going to all that trouble to create tension and impress us with how frightful the alien visitors are, they produce such a cheesy alien figure, straight out of those black-and-white science fiction matinees, with scales instead of skin, long hooked fingers and hissing visage. Why, the alien is even green!

Maybe that's the image that finally snapped me out of the Shyamalan-created fog of fright and intellectual insecurity. How could you take seriously a film that features such a cartoon villain? After two hours of anticipating the arrival of these mysterious visitors, finding out they're nothing more than caricatures is deflating and disgusting.

The central question of "Signs" is whether a man who has lost his faith in God and the ability to hope could recover it when faced with the ultimate test. Unfortunately, the threat is embodied in the form of the aforementioned cheesy alien, which makes it a little difficult to take it seriously, but the ultimate test is really the loss of a loved one. Can a human being remain cynical and beyond the reach of prayer when the life of a loved one is at stake? When all else is lost, when there is no longer hope of human intercession, won't the weak human will turn to God at last?

* * *

HERE'S an update on the small, unheralded—but nevertheless laudable—uprising that some women are waging against Conway's in Shangri-La Makati.

One of the members of that hardy band of female storm troopers, who hope by sheer *kakulitan* and brassiness to overturn the hotel's discriminatory policy against unescorted women inside the popular bar's premises, called me recently with the juicy details of their latest encounter.

"We went to Conway's properly escorted (by my caller's son whom she had shanghaied into accompanying them) but we were still not allowed to enter," she said. Now comes the juicy part.

"When we loudly protested, the bar's manager came out and confronted us, saying that she knew we were the ones who told you the story about not allowing unescorted women to come in. 'Apparently, you don't agree with our policy and have even talked about it to the media, so we don't see any sense in allowing you to enjoy our premises,' she said. We protested and said it was our right to enter as Conway's is open to the public, but she insisted that the bar is private property."

When they pointed out that they were not violating any hotel policy, since they had come with a male escort, Conway's manager fished out a variation on the order, saying every woman guest had to be accompanied by a man. One man escorting a group of women would not do. What's Conway's anyway, Noah's Ark? Or a meeting place for the Couples for Christ?

My friends insist I must join them in one of their "assaults" on the barred doors of Conway's. I've been under the weather the past week, but once I'm back in fighting form, I might just take up the offer.

* * *

BUT if it's any consolation to the women storm troopers, they are not the first to raise a challenge to remaining vestiges of male exclusivity or gender-based discrimination.

My friend Maribel Ongpin, for one, waged dogged and ultimately successful campaigns to break the male stranglehold on such bastions as the Manila Polo Club and the Manila Golf Club. Before Maribel dared breach the walls of exclusivity, no woman had been allowed to run and sit on the board of either club. I remember Maribel telling me she was particularly incensed at the Manila Golf Club's policy since her family were members largely because of her own devotion to the game of golf.

Getting into Conway's without need of hanging onto a gentleman's arm may not advance the cause of women's rights much, but big wars are won by little victories. And we need every inch of advantage we can gain. Soldier on!

Abuses in government

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. However, if the shoe fits…)

HAVING run across a 1767 document belonging to John Galvin in Sta. Barbara, California, regarding abuses in colonial times, I thought it a good proof of the maxim that there's nothing new under the sun. This is no excuse for blaming our colonial masters. You have to ask yourself who were the role models of Adam or Cain or Judas. A retreat master I knew used to say that it isn't 90 percent of people who're dysfunctional, it's 100 percent. On the other hand, what happened to justice? At least those biblical characters paid their dues.

Excesses committed by governor generals:

Government offices are sold to the highest bidders. As soon as a governor takes office, he declares all offices of mayors and magistrates vacant even if the incumbents have served for only a few months. They are forced to appear before the new governor to authenticate their titles or patents and who then confirms them for certain amounts. Should someone else want the position and offer more money, the incumbent loses it unless he can offer as much or more.

The giving of offices of magistrates and of mayors to the highest bidder creates problems. Generally the candidate mortgages his property for large sums or borrows from Chinese traders who also supply them with clothing and everything else. The Chinese, of course, hope to get the products of the province for a lower price and to receive protection in their usury. Since they've bought the jobs, they have to consider how to repay their obligations or their debts and how to live with pomp and ostentation and still get rich. The natives, of course, end up holding the proverbial bag.

The same thing happens to judges. They have to authenticate their appointments and pay to have them renewed.

Another source of corruption comes from the misdeclaration of goods from sampans coming from China. The Chinese leader accompanies the captain of the vessel, bringing a spurious book of merchandise supposedly listing everything for sale. This is necessary because they have to pay anchorage and customs fees according to the value of the merchandise. The Chinese then conceals what he thinks best and shows what he feels like showing. So that the computation may not be too high, he hands the governor a separate list of what he has as a gift to him consisting of one or two cases of embroidered silks, half a dozen embroidered dresses, a dozen or two cases of ham, an equal number of porcelain, 20 or 30 bundles of blue and white linen cloth, the same number of unbleached cloth, some rolls from Nanking, various paints and varnishes and some cases of tea.

If this doesn't suffice, he adds some silver or some jewelry, which he claims to be rare, for the governor to wear. Publicly the governor orders an official to inspect the sampan but the latter has already been instructed what to do. Consequently he states that the cargo is small and ordinary and therefore the duties are low and a very small amount is obtained for the government.

The goods are then sent to the Alcaiceria de San Fernando where more fraud takes place. Buyers have to obtain permits approved by the governor in order to buy. The Chinese merchant, on the other hand, has to pay the governor again in order to sell for the price he wants. He therefore raises his prices and word gets around that the goods are scarce and cheap and everyone rushes to buy.

Another fraud is perpetrated when the vessel leaves. If the goods have not been disposed of by the time allotted for their stay, the Chinese traders again have to pay the governor who then extends their stay according to the sum paid. It also costs these captains money to be able to bring back local goods.

In order not to be captured by Moros, these vessels have to be escorted by coast guards, which costs P200 to P300 per vessel—all of which goes to the governor.

The Royal Treasury loses a lot of income from the Galleon Trade. All equipment and cargo need permits to sail. In the event of a delay in the sailing date, an extension is requested but money has to be paid to the governor. The traders need to obtain rope from Camarines and sails from the Ilocos which takes time and by the time they leave the weather is unfavorable. In the meantime, the galleon stops by San Jacinto to get a supply of water and wood since it left Cavite for Acapulco without it. Suddenly several vessels appear laden with merchandise which they are forced to accept but no taxes have been paid on them while the governor has received large sums for them.

Another fraudulent practice were monopolies. (You'd think by this time 500 years later we'd have learned our lesson.) There were stores for the sale of monopolies like wine, cocoa, nipa and *buyo*. Huge profits were derived by giving the monopoly to a private individual who could then sell bad wine at high prices. (At the time the report was written, a case was being investigated against a businessman named S[illegible] who was accused of paying the governor $20,000 for the monopoly.)

As the saying goes, so what else is new?

I'm not what I eat

YOUNG BLOOD

Marvin Sorrosa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FILIPINO culture is not only unique, it can also be funny at times. Take, for instance, the names we give the food we eat. Other people make the names of their food as delightful and tempting as possible. The American menu, for instance, showcases luscious-sounding meals such as beef brisket, Andouille sausages and mango jubilee. Mediterranean dishes are called lamb cutlet, herbed salmon, tuna tail and the like. In China, some more modern dishes are called orange-glazed chicken and royal lychee Charlotte. In our country, however, the common practice is to give food some strange, ridiculous, even unappetizing names.

My grandfather's favorite bread was called *putok*. This concoction has a thick crust with a dash of sugar on top of four-small bulges. I can still remember how I'd munch on its white, compact core as I rushed to join my playmates who were already forming groups for a game of *patintero*.

But *putok*, as we all know, is also a colloquial term for body odor. Good for me I never learned to put their two meanings together when grandfather and I partook of that bread.

When I was in the third grade in Baguio my favorite candy was called—believe it or not—*sundot kulangot*. This was a soft candy inside a piece of bamboo, and I would let it melt very slowly on my tongue as I went home from school. I understand that it is still being sold near public schools where young students are likely to buy such worthless items as necklaces with pendants that are nothing more than tiny glass cylinders with water of different colors in it.

From school, I would pass by the market where other delicacies were sold. There were *pasencias* (a kind of biscuit, not the virtue), sampaguitas (which were not the national flower), *kababayans* (which made me wonder if Filipinos were cannibals before I tasted a piece) and *gastos* (which is arguably the most expensive rick cake around).

But expensive or not, such strange-sounding food can be found almost anywhere you go. Recently, I happened to be in a wet market in Parañaque, which unlike other markets was strategically located in one corner of a row of restaurants. There, one could order different kinds of fish and stuff from the sea to be cooked in the restaurants of your choice. As soon as we stepped into the market, we were welcomed by the invitation of vendors to try their exotic goods of various shapes and life forms, some of which you first saw only on Discovery Channel.

Of course the wet market carries ordinary squids and crustaceans, but I don't think everyone of us has ever tasted an *alimangong bakla*. According to the vendors, crustaceans are classified basically by their gender, but in addition there is this type of a male *alimango*, with all the features of the male but meatier and tastier like a female crab, so they call it the *alimangong bakla* or *alimangong bading*. This kind is in great demand, with nearly all their customers asking for it.

Also on display on the tiled tables in the wet market are various kinds of fish such as the *dalagang bukid* (which is 100-percent female, I understand), *espada* and *sapatero*. Indeed, their names are odd, but not more so than what a doctor got as payment in a movie shown a few years ago. The patient gave him a fish freshly caught from the sea called *tampal puk* (tell me I didn't hear the name correctly).

Sure some names can be traced to geography or culture. But how did the special *longganisa* made in Cabanatuan City get the name *batotay?* Probably it doesn't mean anything, but certainly it sounds funny. I can hardly imagine a sophisticated lady in an expensive gown taking a seat at the dining table after a long speech and ordering, "*Batotay*, please!"

In Bicol, on the other hand, people love to eat *pancit bato*. I don't know exactly how it is cooked, but the texture of the noodles is like that of *pancit canton*, yellowish and a little bigger than the *bihon*. I tried it once and it tasted different from *canton*.

Culture may have something to do with these names, and so do the way the food are cooked and the way they are eaten. *Palitaw* is called thus because it rises above the water when boiled. *Chicharon bulaklak*, on the other hand, blooms like a flower in the pan (though sometimes it pops like popcorn).

In Pangasinan, one can savor *hab-hab*, which is consumed without using a spoon and fork but rather by licking the plate. *Pinikpikan*is quite popular in Northern Luzon. The dog from which the meat will be taken, the main ingredient of this dish, is slapped countless times. The slapping creates a unique sound, which seems to have inspired the name of this exotic dish.

Sometimes, however, the names we give to our food defy explanation. A neighbor who came home as a *balikbayan* from the United States recently said he loved a unique grilled dish served at one party, but he couldn't believe he was eating a *betamax*. For the uninitiated, a betamax is boiled, pork blood, chopped into cubes. The most logical explanation for this I have heard from *tambays*. They said that because of its ingredients and the way it is prepared without too much attention to sanitation makes anyone who consumes it a likely candidate to contract various diseases, especially TB (or TV—see the connection?).

The names Filipinos give to their food certainly suggests their native creativity, which often goes beyond logic. But whether their names be odd, eccentric or unappealing, they will always be a delight to my taste.

Marvin T. Sorrosa, 28, is a copywriter and writes scripts for special events and articles for a company magazine.

THEY SAID

Unimportant people

"I don't think politicians should be given much importance. They only use people for their personal ends. Conscientious politicians are very rare these days, if they exist at all."

—Romeo Lumawig, explaining why he did not name any of the butterflies he discovered after politicians

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Flaws in teachers' licensure exams

I WOULD like to report irregularities in the Licensure Examination for Teachers given by the Professional Regulation Commission last Aug. 25.

I found out that around 20 percent of the questions in Mathematics did not have the correct answers among the choices given. One test item was also missing, and there were a number of typographical errors.

If the right answers were not among the choices, how could the PRC assess the competence of the examinees? The basis for the certification would then be questionable.

I regard the PRC with respect. Unfortunately, its failure to address similar complaints on the accuracy of the LET item since 2000 has created concern and confusion among us teachers.

Let us not forget that the future of our country lies in the hands of qualified teachers. They are the ones who mold the future generation. How sure are we then that those who pass the LET are qualified if the test questions are themselves questionable?

—NAME WITHHELD UPON REQUEST

President's choice limited to JBC list

THE INQUIRER news report bore the catchy title "Davide scores Palace for meddling in JBC" (PDI, 8/27/02). There are immediately suggestions of impropriety and intimations of intrigue. It portrays the Chief Justice as assuming a bellicose stance toward a meddling Malacañang.

Of course, there are millions in this country who delight in histrionics and melodrama, but on this issue, both the Palace and the Chief Justice should be spared all this.

The Chief Justice was responding to a query by the program hosts whether or not a list of nominees submitted by the Judicial and Bar Council to the President could be "reopened"—and by that they meant reviewed and rewritten to include a name or two that was not on the list submitted. The Chief Justice answered that "reopening" could not be done. In so responding, he was merely reiterating a constitutional prescription and procedure: The President's choice is limited to the nominee on the list submitted by the council. It was, to be sure, an assertion of the JBC's constitutionally ordained independence, but it was by no means an imputation of malice or impropriety on the part of the Palace.

And it was not "scoring." The Chief Justice has such a sense of the loftiness of his office that he does not need the posturing of the officious who "score" other branches and agencies of government.

Malacañang, for its part, should be presumed to know the Constitution. An opposite presumption is malicious, and we have too much malice in the air already for our own good as a people!

In fact, all the intrigue and insinuation about the "President's men" are unnecessary. If the President is not satisfied with the list submitted by the Judicial and Bar Council, she does not have to direct a "reopening" of the list. All she has to do is to reject the list and ask the council to submit another one. After all, the Constitution obliges her to choose from the list, but not to accept every list submitted. What she cannot do, however, is direct the council about which names to include therein. This is what the Chief Justice pointed out. Nothing more, nothing less.

—FR. RANHILIO CALLANGAN AQUINO, head, academic affairs office, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila

Senior citizens' ID is not a begging bowl

WHEN I tell a bus driver in the United States that I am a senior citizen, he looks at me and asks me to drop 75 cents in the metal coin box near his seat. This is 50 percent off the regular fare. If I don't have the exact change, he tells me to take the next bus but I must prepare the exact change.

In the New York subways, the toll clerk merely looks at me if I look like a senior citizen. I pay half of the regular fare.

In our country, most small- or medium-sized establishments are usually harsh on senior citizens. When you sit down at a restaurant, a waiter insultingly asks, "Do you have a senior citizen's card?" In a drugstore, if your prescription is for an expensive drug, the clerk will tell you that it is out of stock. If your prescription calls for 30 tablets for a months' supply, the clerk will say it is their policy not to sell that much. You have to go back on a later date and fall in line again to buy the rest of your medicine.

Our ID card is treated like a modern begging bowl. When I treat my three small grandchildren in a restaurant, the bill is divided by four and my prorated share is given a 20 percent discount.

The ID card is usually signed by a councilor in the office of the mayor. Somehow, it appears that the ID card has become another way for politicians to dispense favors to their constituents.

If Congress really wants to help senior citizens, the law must be amended. Senior citizens should not be made to beg. After all, they have already contributed their long service to the community and paid taxes up to their retirement. Congress can start by taking away the identification card.

—P.N. BELTRAN, 11 Bulletin St., Quezon City

Itnegs different from Isnegs

THE WAY the INQUIRER presents information makes readers like me unwilling to miss any page because its is simply very informative. Because of this daily personal ritual I did not miss reading the article, titled "Apayao's Mabaka tribe's culture of cooperation," written by Maurice Malanes last Aug. 7.

I belong to the Mabaka tribe of the Cordillera region, particularly in the province of Abra. The Mabaka tribe is found in the three provinces of Kalinga, Apayao and Abra and belong to the Itneg group of tribes, also known as Tingguians. However, the article said the Mabaka tribe is a subgroup of the Isneg tribe, which is not correct.

I would like to clarify that the Isneg tribe in the Cordilleras is entirely different from the Itneg group, although both are found in the same region. One big difference between these tribal groups is the dialect used by their members. The Isnegs, to my knowledge, use the Isneg dialect, while we, the Itnegs/Tingguians have different dialects used by each sub-tribe like the Mabaka people who use the Mabaka dialect. Other Itneg tribes like the Binongan, Adasen, Inlaod, Banao, Gubang, Masadiit, among others, have their respective dialects too.

—FRT. JUAN C. LIBANGAN JR., SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, Pindangan, Parian, San Fernando City, La Union

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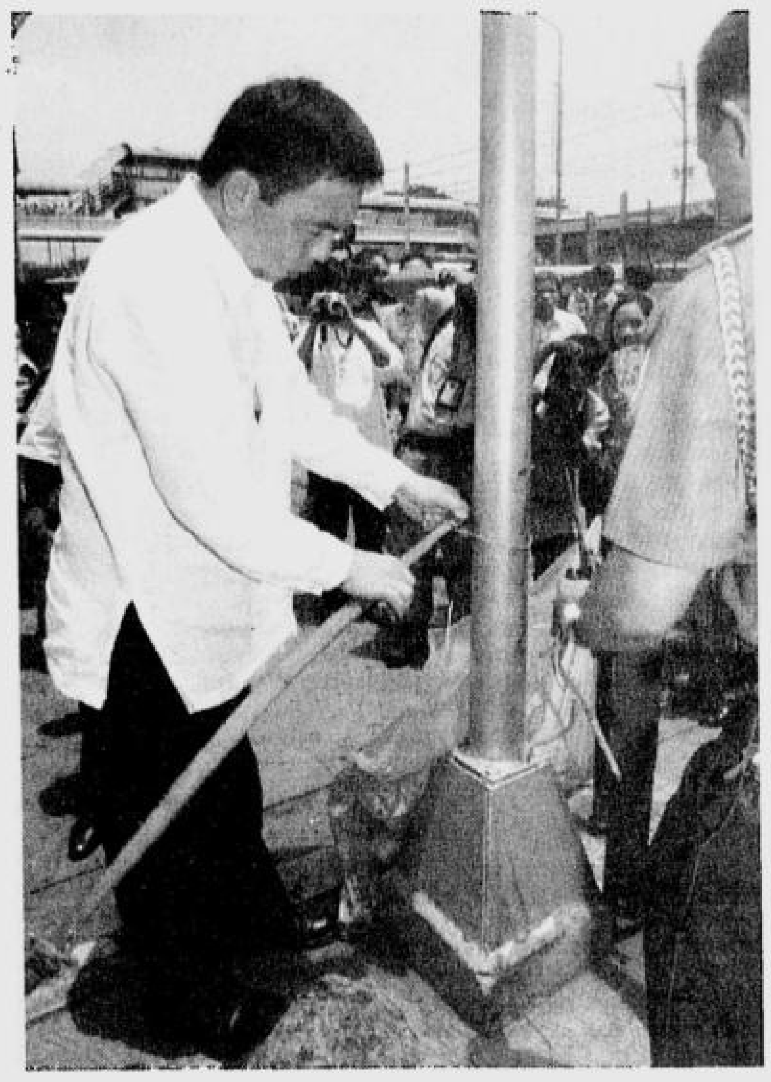
Fernando no longer his 'bayani'



METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando is not my *bayani* anymore. Before this week, I saw him as one of the few government officials with the guts to do his job. But his decision to spray the goods of sidewalk vendors with kerosene is as indefensible as his position against recycling.

I can appreciate the nearly insurmountable task Fernando is facing. One time I had to take the bus to Olongapo City from Caloocan. As soon as I alighted from the LRT, I was forced to wade through a sea of peddlers pushing their noisy electronic gizmos. Worse, it was raining and we hapless pedestrians were forced to skip over the puddles since all the covered walkways leading up to the bus station were occupied by these curbside hawkers.

These hawkers make a living by doing something illegal. The legislation has been there for years. It is not the incumbent MMDA chief's fault that no one has seriously enforced it before him. While poverty is an explanation it is not an excuse. I hail Fernando's effort to discipline these vendors to take responsibility for the community they live in. Move them back into the safer, cleaner markets where they belong and stop the protection racket of crooked cops and MMDA enforcers.

The traffic in Metro Manila is hardly a trifling matter anymore. The sad fact is that these vendors are clogging the very arteries of the metropolis. Ticketing them will only be a source of more petty corruption. The hilarious suggestion of the Parañaque police chief that the cities sue them would clog our already jammed courts. Fernando has the right idea: take the "goodies" away so they can't sell them anymore.

When Manila Mayor Lito Atienza suggested that the confiscated goods be given to charity, I thought Fernando would jump at the idea. It was the perfect chance to soften his image and give his boss the photo opportunity she craves so much. That he rejected the idea should come to me as no surprise. Such is politics.

But then I thought about the products he would be destroying. These are not just irritating trinkets but food, clothing and toys. Just the items that would be most needed by charitable causes. This is, after all, a country where nearly 40 percent of the people are hungry, go without decent clothing and whose children play only with scraps of garbage. That any official on the payroll of the hardworking taxpayers should entertain the idea of dousing food with kerosene is not just harsh. It is obscene.

Being compared to Hitler is both a compliment and an insult. During his early days in power, Hitler rebuilt a despondent Germany and resurrected the spirit of a people. Today Fernando has fulfilled his promises to the City of Marikina just as he is endeavoring to fulfill—a drive down Edsa or Balintawak will acquit him on this—those he made to the President.

It was not until after a war was lost that the world learned about the terrible cost of Hitler's success. What will be the cost to the Philippines of Fernando's success?

—ROBERT JOSEPH KLEIST, 1515 Margie Moran St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City

Reds cannot be eliminated easily

IF the Philippine insurgency problem were a simple case of communist terrorism, then it would have been eliminated long before President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power. It could not have persisted for more than 50 years.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, communism in the Philippines should have gone to the grave like it did in the USSR and its satellites. But it did not.

Although it thrives in poverty, communism is not its cause. It is rather a reaction to the oppression and exploitation of the masses. It multiplies with the injustices committed against the poor.

We should have noticed by now that the ebb and flow of communist insurgency coincides with the incidence of poverty in the country.

While the Abu Sayyaf might have been horrific in its operations, it can easily be decimated, since it lacks a solid ideology and genuine popular support. It is also confined to a limited area in the south.

The New People's Army cannot be compared to the Abu Sayyaf or other insurgent groups. It is not so easy for the government to exterminate the mainstream NPA.

Labeling the NPA as "communist terrorists" oversimplifies the problem of insurgency and may lead to costly errors. Even Marcos in his strongest days was unable to contain the NPA.

There is no guarantee that American military assistance alone can defeat the communist rebels. The United States cannot be expected to equip the Philippines with the same kind of arsenal that it used against the poorly armed Vietnamese communists. Yet the latter survived and won in the end.

The Taliban and al-Qaida forces in Afghanistan are still there, bidding their time, notwithstanding the sophisticated bombs and explosives rained upon them. Even the much hated Osama bin Laden has survived the onslaught.

The bluster displayed by the President when the military captured some NPA rebels in Nueva Ecija was misplaced. Even President Fidel Ramos never exhibited such bravado. He knew very well that a few rebels by themselves cannot maintain a decades-old insurgency.

For that matter, even the capture of Gregorio Rosal or the reported wish of Jose Ma. Sison to retire would not mean the end of the CPP-NPA-NDF. There are other rebel leaders waiting in the wings to replace them. And their replacements are expected to be wiser, having learned from past experiences and rectified the mistakes of their comrades who preceded them. The new generation of communists in the Philippines can only be better. That is the greater danger.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ, 420 Gov. A. Pascual St., San Jose, Navotas, Metro Manila

DNA tests and the death penalty

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST week a Michigan court ordered the release of Eddie Joe Lloyd, who had been convicted of rape and murder back in 1984 and sentenced to life imprisonment, without possibility of parole. Lloyd was in prison for 17 years before DNA testing showed he could not have committed the crimes for which he had been convicted.

Lloyd was convicted based on evidence presented by the police: semen stains on a piece of paper taped to a bottle, and on a pair of long johns. DNA testing was not available at that time so the stains were never tested. It was just presumed they came from Lloyd.

Today, the availability of DNA testing is rapidly changing forensic investigations. Each individual's DNA is unique, which means tests can be conducted on body fluids such as blood and semen, and from tissue samples. Samples from a crime scene can be compared with those of suspects, even using very old pieces of evidence, as in the case of Lloyd.

The judge who passed the sentence on Lloyd had said he would have preferred passing a sentence with "termination by extreme constriction" (hanging) but Lloyd was lucky because Michigan did not have capital punishment. Lloyd was lucky, too, that Michigan allowed post-conviction requests for DNA testing.

Such requests are very new. In 1999, two states began to allow such requests from convicts. Today, there are 26 states—about half of the total in the United States—that provide for such tests but often with severe restrictions.

The Innocence Project, a private initiative of lawyers and other civil rights advocates in the United States, has fought to have these DNA tests used more widely, and has helped people like Lloyd to get the tests and appeal to the courts. Lloyd was the 110th prison inmate—including several who had been sentenced to death—to have been saved by a DNA test.

The Innocence Project does not stop with DNA testing. When a conviction is found erroneous, they go on to investigate what went wrong. In the case of Lloyd, it turns out he signed his "confession" while confined in a mental hospital, and while on medication. Lloyd says the police told him they were just going to use him, and his confession, as a decoy to flush out the real killer. Lloyd, incidentally, is bipolar, meaning someone who moves between extreme manic and depressed moods.

The Innocence Project found that mistaken identification was the most common reason for a wrongful conviction, figuring in 61 of the 110 cases. That should come as no surprise: psychologists know that a victim of a crime is very prone to making false accusations, often tainted by his or her own prior suspicions as well as biases and prejudices, against a neighbor or relative against whom he or she has a grudge, someone from a different ethnic or religious group, even a person whose physical features "look" criminal.

The other reasons identified by the Innocence Project were: errors in serological (blood) tests (40), police misconduct (38), prosecution's misconduct (34), defective/fraud science (26), bad lawyering (23), false witnesses (17), mistakes in microscopic hair comparisons (21), use of informants/snitches (16) and false convictions (15).

We can see that human error—mistaken identification, lapses in laboratory tests—figure prominently but there's also misconduct and bad lawyering involved. Think now of our situation in the Philippines and how we have to deal not just with human error but with the incompetence and corruption of the police, crime technicians, lawyers and judges.

Even worse, as we have seen lately, we now have to deal with police and politicians trying to outdo each other with media events to project a tough "law and order" image. Fall guys are all too easily found—the parallels between a manic-depressive Lloyd in Michigan and Philip Medel Jr. in the Nida Blanca case are all too striking.

I'm afraid we're going to see many more miscarriages of justice, including wrongful executions, if our police officials and the President continue to parade people on nationwide television; passing judgment on suspects without a trial. Even if DNA testing were to be used, I don't think we can expect these honorable officials to admit later that they erred.

The wrongful convictions in the United States have caused enough concern to start a review of capital punishment in states where it is used. Last year, Illinois Gov. George Ryan was so disturbed by an increasing number of wrongful death sentences, including the case of an inmate who was cleared two weeks before his scheduled execution, that he ordered a moratorium on executions.

Ryan also formed a committee to investigate capital punishment. The committee released a report last April, noting that there were many flaws in the criminal investigation and judicial systems that contributed to wrongful convictions and recommended 85 measures to reduce these errors. I will name a few and ask if we can implement these measures in the Philippines: videotaping all interrogations of suspects in all capital cases; establishing a statewide (or in the case of the Philippines, a national) DNA database and an independent forensics lab; a ban on the use of the death sentence for anyone convicted based solely on the testimony of a single eyewitness, police informer or accomplice.

The experiences in the United States should give us more grounds to rid ourselves of this barbaric practice, one which in the guise of "justice" ends up executing or imprisoning the innocent while the guilty roam free. It is encouraging that 110 members of our House of Representatives have signed a resolution urging the President to suspend all executions even as they introduce a bill to repeal the death penalty.

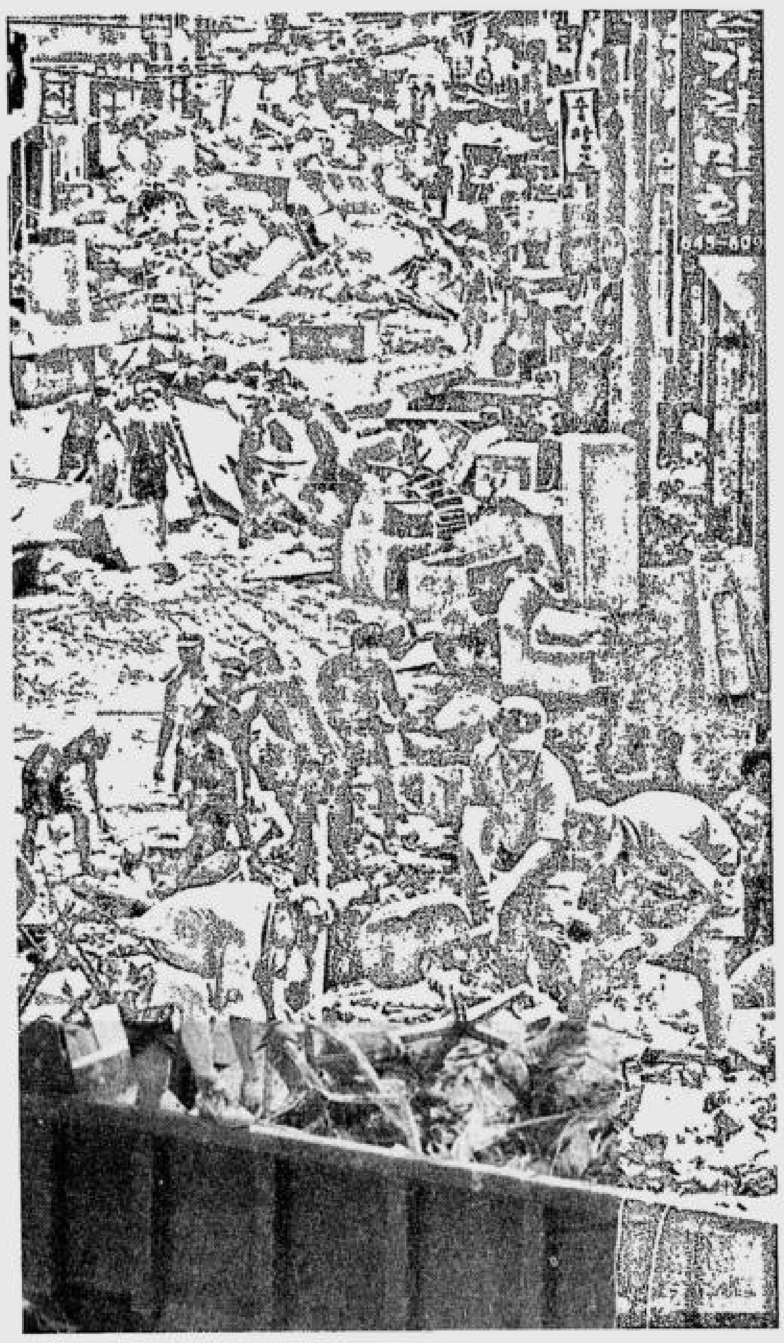
Note that the Illinois investigation committee, even as they recommended those 85 measures for a "fair and accurate" death penalty, noted that "No system, given human nature and frailties, could ever be devised or constructed that would work perfectly and guarantee absolutely that no innocent person is ever again sentenced to death."

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



SOUTH Korean soldiers remove debris from a typhoon-ravaged street in Kangnung, 160 km east of Seoul, on Sept. 2. REUTERS

Korea storm toll rises to 158 dead, missing

SEOUL—Tens of thousands of troops were mobilized Monday for a massive clean-up operations after the most damaging storm in more than four decades ravaged South Korea, leaving 158 people dead or missing.

The government disaster agency said an additional 29 people were unaccounted for in the wake of typhoon "Rusa," which plowed across South Korea Saturday destroying thousands of houses and paralyzing transport in many parts of the country.

"The death toll is going to go up because workers are trying to confirm reports concerning the 29 people unaccounted for," said Park Hyong-Jun, an official at the government's National Disaster Prevention and Countermeasure Headquarters (NDPCH) here.

State-run KBS television said more than 180 people were feared dead or missing.

The disaster agency estimated property losses at 312 billion won ($262 million).

Rusa, South Korea's worst storm in 43 years, washed away 274 bridges and severely damaged railways and roads in 174 places, transportation ministry officials said.

With thousands of electricity poles ripped up, 1.25 million households were still without power late Monday.

High waves swept away 211 ships and wrecked mooring facilities in 24 ports at the height of the storm. About 17,000 houses remained inundated, leaving 27,470 people homeless.

Agriculture and forestry ministry officials said 85,000 hectares of farmland were ruined, triggering worries about a steep hike in food prices.

Some 50,000 soldiers and government personnel were mobilized for rescue and repair operations at flood-damaged towns.

The defense ministry said thousands of soldiers were sent to the eastern port city of Gangneung and surrounding Gangwon province, which were battered by a record 890 mm of rain Friday and Saturday.

Relief goods have been sent to Gangneung where utility and other public facilities were severely damaged, forcing many of its 200,000 citizens to live without water and power.

"Along with the serious water shortage, I have been living just on cold bread for three days," Park Min-Yong, 43, told Yonhap news agency.

In the city, some 16,000 people took shelter in schools and goverment buildings.

Hundreds of people remained stranded in remote areas in the Gangwon, awaiting emergency relief. *AFP*

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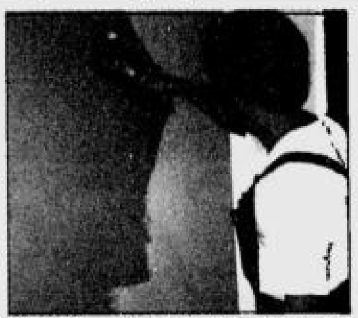

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Republicans warn Bush: Attack on Iraq fraught with danger

WASHINGTON — The ranking Republican on the Senate foreign relations committee said he agreed with President George W. Bush that Saddam Hussein's regime was a threat. But Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel said Bush needed to keep an eye on a political map filled with dangers.

Another senior Republican member of the committee, Sen. Dick Lugar of Indiana, who joined Hagel weeks ago in counseling a go-slow approach to achieving Bush's oft-stated goal of "regime change" in Iraq, said the president should consult both the United Nations and Congress before acting. Lugar said a UN resolution demanding the return of weapons inspectors would give political cover.

"There's no question that Saddam Hussein represents a threat to the region, ultimately a threat to the United States and all peace-loving people," Hagel said Sunday on ABC television's "This Week."

"I think the question . . . is the urgency of that threat. Who would we go to war with on our side? . . . When do we do that? Who would then replace Saddam Hussein? Would we further destabilize the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia? . . . And, of course, one of the big questions is, how long would the United States need to stay in the Middle East? Are we talking about 250,000 troops? Do we want to be in Baghdad running that government, trying to find an alternative?" Hagel said.

"These are the questions that we need to think through and ask."

Lugar said the UN Security Council's action would be little more than symbolic, because Saddam would refuse to let the inspectors return, and it would be left to the Americans to enforce the resolution making the demand.

Just before Lugar spoke on CNN's "Late Edition," Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, interviewed from Baghdad, said the idea of the inspectors' return was "a nonstarter because it's not going to bring about a conclusion."

"By saying they're not even going to start, (Aziz) gives us the opportunity (to) go back to the UN to re-energize our partners, to indicate how unreasonable the Iraqis are, to get resolutions that if we cannot get in—and apparently we're going to have difficulty doing that—then we have a military force option," Lugar said.

Bush is trying to determine how to deal with what the administration says is Saddam's quest for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

To end the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq agreed to cease all attempts to obtain such weapons and to allow unrestricted inspections to ensure compliance. Inspectors left in late 1998, just before punitive US-British air strikes because of Iraq's refusal to cooperate, and Saddam refused to allow the inspectors back in. Iraq says the inspectors completed their job.

Policy on whether to seek renewed weapons inspections after a four-year hiatus or to strike Iraq preemptively to remove Saddam has become muddied.

Last week, Vice President Dick Cheney said inspectors "would provide no assurance whatsoever" of compliance and might even bring "false comfort" that Saddam had been contained.

On Sunday, the British Broadcasting Corp. released a text of an interview in which Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "The president has been clear that he believes weapons inspectors should return." *AP*

BUSH salutes a Marine honor guard as he carries his dog Barney while leaving the Texas State Technical College airfield on Sept. 1. REUTERS

200 al-Qaida terrorists find refuge in Lebanon

JERUSALEM—Damascus has allowed some 150-200 members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida group to settle in the Ain el-Helweh Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon, an Israeli newspaper claimed Monday.

Haaretz, citing "various intelligence services," said the group, including senior commanders, had arrived from Afghanistan through Damascus, Iran and directly to Lebanon.

It added that Mohammed Atta, the leader of Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, visited Syria twice or three times.

Intelligence services have also managed to find detailed information about contacts between a leading military figure of the Lebanese Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah, Imad Mourghniyeh, and an al-Qaida operative in Sudan, Haaretz said.

There is no evidence yet of that relationship developing into continuing ties, but there is no doubt the meeting could not have taken place without Syrian intelligence knowing of it, the newspaper said.

The newspaper also claimed that gun battles last month at Ain el-Helweh were initiated by al-Qaida men there, with three of them killed in the fighting.

It said commanders from Afghanistan were establishing a local infrastructure, with one bit of intelligence saying they are interested in getting material for chemical weapons.

Syria is the effective power broker in its smaller neighbor, and maintains around 20,000 troops in Lebanon.

The newspaper said evidence showed that before Sept. 11, Syria was a "stomping ground" for al-Qaida operatives. It said the country served as transit point for them, and that al-Qaida had an infrastructure there.

Afterwards, with growing US rage and the attack on the Taliban in Afghanistan, it said the Syrians changed position, and were ready for intelligence cooperation with Washington. *AFP*

Last details of action plan ironed out at Earth Summit

JOHANNESBURG—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan welcomed more than 100 heads of state to the World Summit with a plea for all nations to work together to uplift the poor and to rescue the world's struggling environment.

"Let us not be deceived when we look at a clear blue sky into thinking that all is well. All is not well," Annan said.

Conjuring up the "cries for help of those 13 million souls" in southern Africa facing starvation, Annan told the leaders that failure to take decisive action at the summit would have too high a cost.

"Let us stop being economically defensive and start being politically courageous," he said.

The 10-day conference, which started a week ago, aims to agree on a plan to turn promises made at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio into reality.

"Poverty and environmental degradation, if unchecked, spell catastrophe for our world. That is clear," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

However, negotiations over reaching an action plan have been painstaking.

Bleary-eyed negotiators worked into the early hours of the morning Monday trying to hammer out the last details of an agreement and were upbeat after compromises were reached in three key areas: climate change, trade and sanitation.

"The process is not just about approving text. It's about working with developing countries that look to us for concrete action," said Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky, head of the US delegation. "Failure is not an option."

Diplomats said one contentious issue was resolved late Saturday, when negotiators settled on wording to address the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which the United States has refused to sign.

The agreed text says nations that have ratified Kyoto "strongly urge" states that have not done so to ratify it in "a timely manner."

Negotiators also reached compromises on trade that largely stick to language agreed at a World Trade Organization meeting in Doha, Qatar. They include a repeat of commitments to hold negotiations with a view to phasing out agriculture and other trade-distorting subsidies.

The last outstanding trade issue was resolved late Sunday when negotiators agreed to delete language giving the WTO precedence over multilateral environment agreements, diplomats said.

"There's a sense of euphoria among the delegates that they've been able to settle this very difficult issue," said Lucian Hudson, a spokesperson for the British delegation. "We're nearly there."

Early Monday, negotiators added a commitment to halve the 2 billion people living without sanitation by 2015, diplomats said. *AP*

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Singapore assails UN report

SINGAPORE—Singapore took issue Monday with a draft United Nations report that describes the city state as a place where the al-Qaida network is receiving financial support, saying the claims were unsubstantiated.

"The report did not contain any details or mention any specific investments from Singapore that are linked to al-Qaida," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The draft report said al-Qaida was receiving financial support from Osama bin Laden's personal inheritance and investments, from its own members and supporters and from charitable organizations.

The portfolio managed on behalf of Bin Laden and al-Qaida by unidentified intermediaries includes investments in Mauritius, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Panama, said the draft report.

Estimates of the portfolio's value ranges between $30 million and $300 million, it said.

Under a UN Security Council resolution adopted unanimously in January, all nations are required to freeze the finances and impose arms embargoes and travel bans on individuals and groups associated with Bin Laden, al-Qaida, and the Taliban. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

12 asylum seekers detained

BEIJING—A dozen people believed to be North Korean asylum seekers tried to enter the Ecuadorean Embassy in Beijing on Monday but were stopped by security guards, eyewitnesses and an embassy employee said. At least eight of the intruders were detained, while four struggled free and ran off bleeding from injuries, according to South Korean reporters who witnessed the incident. The group tried to use a ladder to scale the fence surrounding the multistory office building housing the embassy. Only two made it over and entered the building, where they were captured before reaching the embassy. *AP*

No negotiations with bandit

MADRAS, India—The chief minister of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu Monday ruled out talks with the country's most notorious bandit who kidnapped a former minister more than a week ago and has threatened to behead him. But Jayalalitha said her government was aiming to free Hannur Nagappa, a former minister in the neighboring state of Karnataka, without endangering his life. Muniswamy Veerappan, who hit the international headlines in 2000 when he seized a movie actor, Rajkumar, and held him for 108 days, kidnapped Nagappa on Aug. 25. "The government's aim is to go all out to capture Veerappan without jeopardizing the life of Nagappa," Jayalalitha told reporters here. *AFP*

Preliminary charge of hijacking

VAESTERAAS, Sweden—A prosecutor on Monday formally requested that a Swedish man arrested last week with a gun in his carry-on luggage be kept in custody on a preliminary charge of planning to hijack an airplane. Kerim Sadok Chatty, a 29-year-old Swedish citizen of Tunisian origin, faces a first count of planning to hijack or sabotage a plane or an airport and a secondary charge of serious weapons possession, according to the request, which was faxed to the court. Chatty was arrested Thursday after security officials found a gun in his carry-on luggage during a routine scan at an airport in the central Swedish city of Vaesteraas as he headed to an Islamic conference in Birmingham, England. *AP*

He still has work to do

MEXICO CITY—Two years after toppling Mexico's powerful ruling party with brash promises of change, President Vicente Fox acknowledged that he still has work to do—and turned to an often hostile Congress for help. Giving his second State-of-the-Nation Address to an increasingly impatient electorate, Fox said late Sunday that he wasn't content with the work he had done. "In spite of the fact that we have moved forward, we aren't satisfied," Fox said. "We would betray Mexicans' hopes for change if we felt satisfied with what we've accomplished so far. I'm the first person to admit that not all our goals have been achieved." In a speech interrupted by boos and protest banners, Fox urged lawmakers to help him build the Mexico he promised voters on July 2, 2000, when he ended the Institutional Revolutionary Party's 71-year hold on the presidency. *AP*

66 million communists

BEIJING—China's Communist Party will be bigger than ever when it meets for a watershed congress in November, with 66 million members now on the rolls, official media reported Monday. The 81-year-old party has added almost 6 million members since its last National Congress in 1997, government newspapers and the official Xinhua News Agency said. About 22 percent of members are under age 35 and 17.5 percent are women, said the reports. Members account for just over 5 percent of China's 1.3 billion people. The figures testify to the party's "uninterrupted robust development and fullness of vitality and energy," Xinhua report said. *AP*

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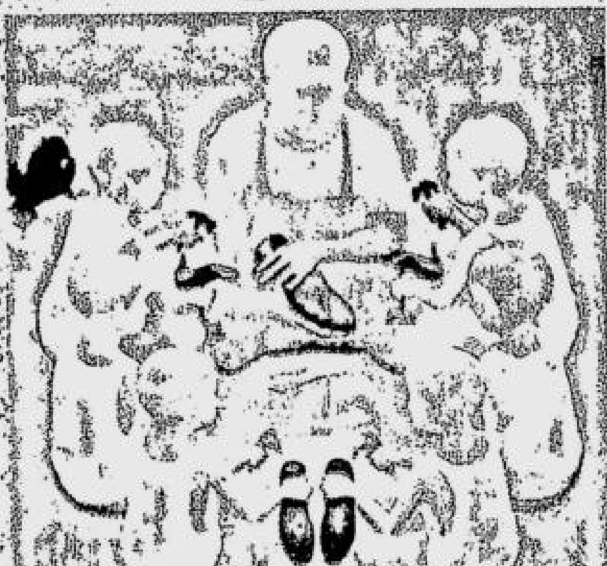
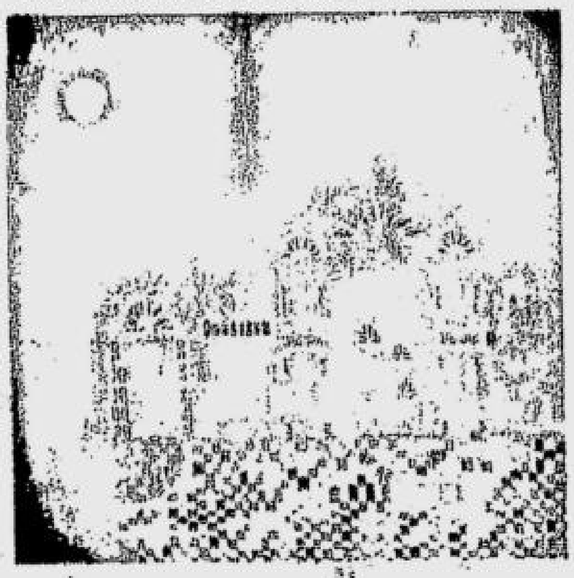
2ND NATIONAL STUDENT ART COMPETITION

Oil Category Winners

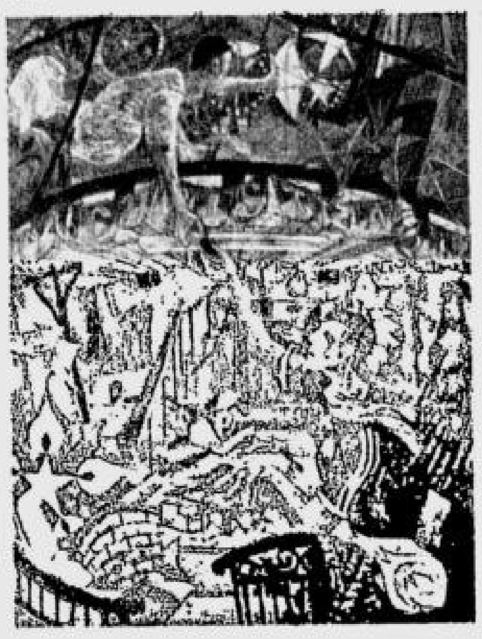


Saling-Galing
123 cm. x 122.5 cm
by **Parker E. Encisa**
Far Eastern University - Fine Arts

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mark Ramsel N. Salvatus III, Antonio M. Totto, Jr., Jaime B. Gubaton, John Paul V. Antido, Parker E. Encisa, and Joey V. Cobcobo.

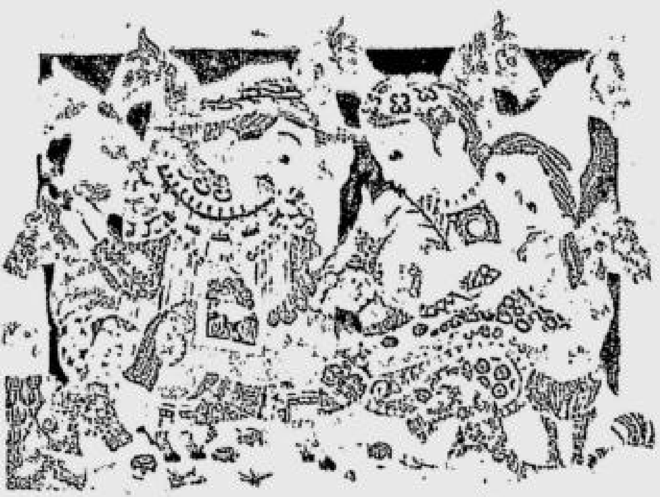


Balwarte ni Lolo, Ang Aming Munting Kastilyo
121.5 cm. x 122 cm
by **Mark Ramsel N. Salvatus III**
University of Santo Tomas - Fine Arts

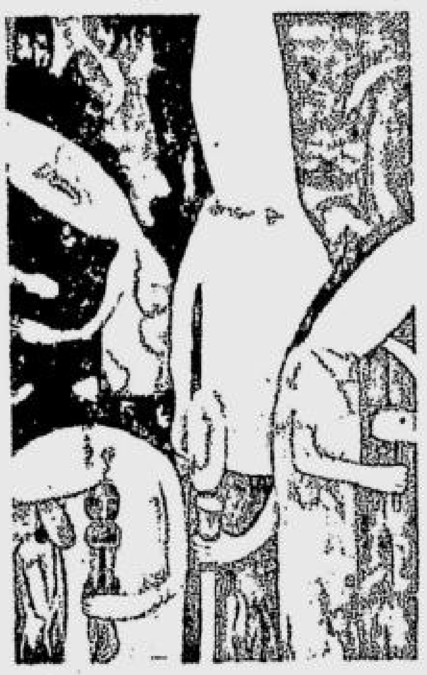


Sa Paskong Darating
91 cm. x 121.5 cm
by **John Paul V. Antido**
UP Diliman - College of Fine Arts

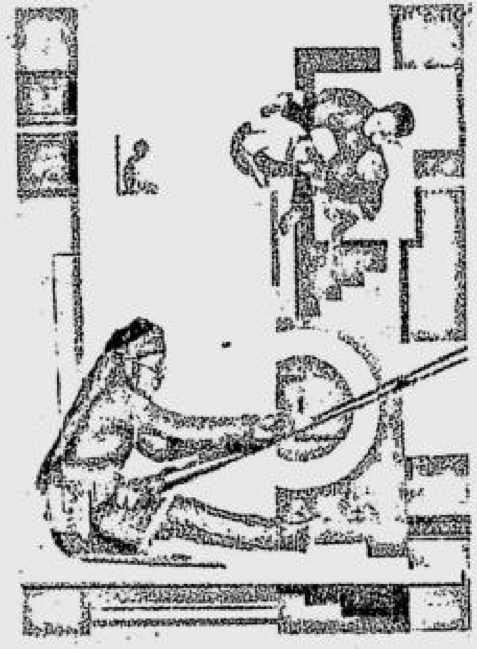
Watercolor Category Winners



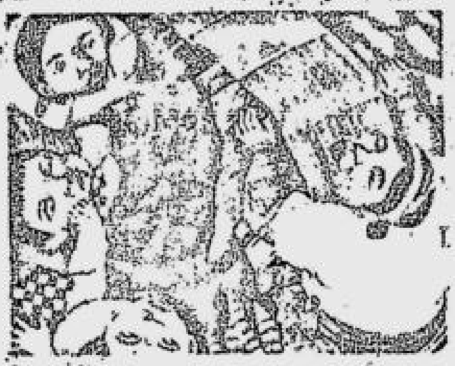
Taka Ka Pa
76.5 cm x 56.5 cm
by **Antonio M. Totto, Jr.**
PUP Manila

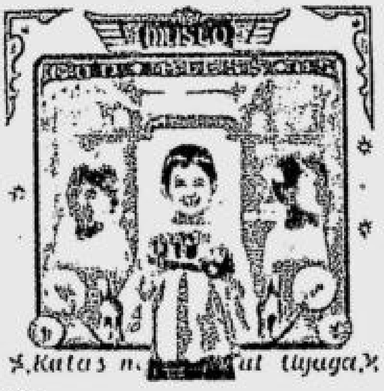


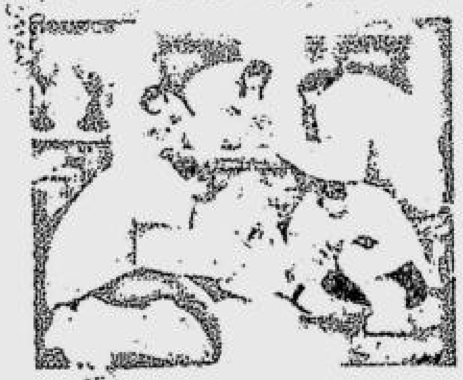
Antique Revision
52.5 cm x 85 cm
by **Joey V. Cobcobo**
Technological University of the Philippines - Manila



Rhythms of Cloth Production
76 cm x 106 cm
by **Jaime B. Gubaton**
UE Caloocan Fine Arts







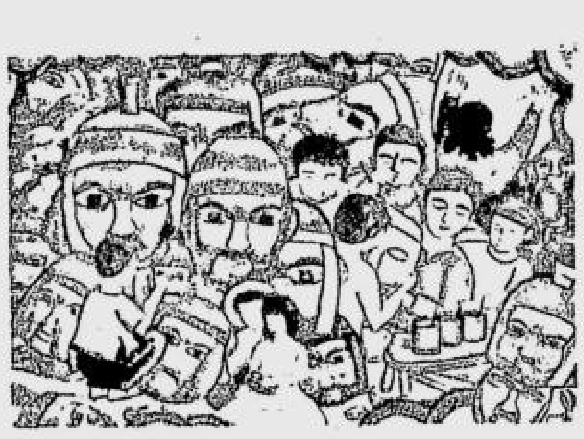
Runners-Up

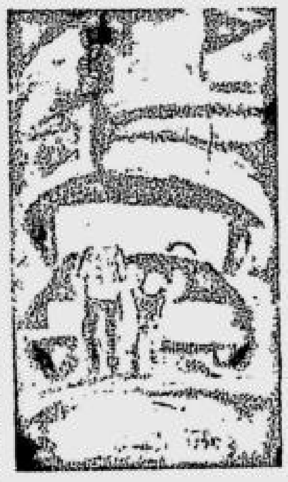
(Clockwise, starting from left)

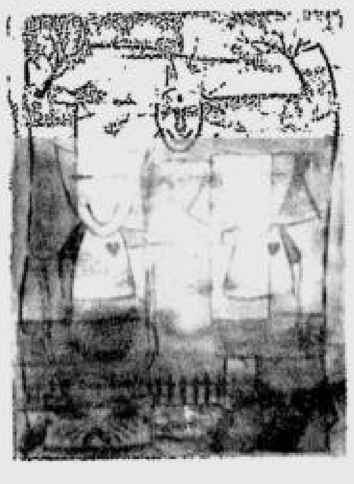
PAMANA NI LOLA
75 cm. x 96 cm
by Romeo Jose E. Rosete III
UP Baguio - Fine Arts

MUNTING MUSEO
122 cm. x 122 cm
by Robert Nelson V. Besana
Philippine Women's University

STO. NIÑO IMAHEN NG CEBU
96.5 cm. x 80 cm
by Wilfredo L. Rufon
Antique School of Arts and Trades







Runners-Up

(Clockwise, starting from left)

HALINA AT GUMAWA NG MASKARA
76.5 cm. x 50.5 cm
by Rommel Cahucom
Philippine Women's University

BAKAL, ILAW, PINTURA, MAKINA. TORNILYO ANG MGA GAMIT SA PAGGAWA NG JEEPNEY NI ITAY
96.5 cm. x 61 cm
by Ryan P. Rubio
Technological University of the Philippines - Manila

MASKARA NG PAG-IBIG
55 cm. x 75 cm
by Maria Jeromia L. Pujeda
National University

A Year of Great Wins for ART PETRON

It has been a year of great wins for ArtPetron, Petron Corporation's annual painting competition for young talented artists!

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and the first ever given Bronze Anvil Award for the Most Outstanding PR Tool of the Year from the prestigious Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP).

Then, it was awarded from among 1,182 entries from all over the world the much-coveted Bronze Anvil Award for Most Outstanding Creative Tactics of the Year given by the prestigious international PR organization, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

Recently, it was chosen by young talented artists as their venue for expressing their love and appreciation for indigenous arts and crafts through their oil and watercolor paintings.

To the winners of ArtPetron 2, our congratulations for making this year a great year for ArtPetron!

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Poor folk raid compost pit for rice

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Nestor B. Ramirez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Urban poor residents, in what could be a sign of desperation, are digging up and eating rice that have been buried in a compost pit in a nursery in the Reclamation Area in Mandaue City, Cebu.

Gloria Tayo, 50, of Sitio Mahusay, Barangay Subangdaku, Mandaue said her neighbors have starting eating the rice after they discovered it in the compost on Aug. 28.

But so far, no one had complained of stomachache, she added.

Tayo, however, said she had disposed of two sacks of rotten rice because she could not stand the foul smell. "But when it was cooked, it could be eaten," she said in Cebuano.

She said her neighbors, who were able to retrieve many sacks of rice, sold them at P5 per kilo.

One of their neighbors, who was among the first to discover the buried rice, even sold it to a *sari-sari* store in the neighborhood, whose owner in turn sold it at P18 per kilo, she added.

"Life in this neighborhood is hard. That is why people are forced to dig up the buried rice despite reports that it is already unfit for consumption," Tayo said.

At least 5,280 sacks of rice were buried in the compost pit in the Cebu City-run nursery on Aug. 22 after these had rotten inside container vans at the Cebu International Port (CIP).

Felixberto Abong, who is in charge of the nursery, said these bags of rice were seized by the Bureau of Customs on suspicion that they were smuggled.

When the rice rotted inside the container vans, the Cebu City Agriculture Office asked whether it could be used as organic fertilizer.

Abong said customs officials approved the request because the rotten rice emitted a foul smell at the CIP.

On Aug. 28, Abong said he was surprised to find children digging into the compost pit, scooping the rotten rice and placing it into sacks.

More people arrived the next day and they couldn't be stopped.

The City Health Officials had warned that the rotten rice could cause illnesses like diarrhea.

But the warning was unheeded.

Tayo said her neighbors were very poor and could hardly buy rice.

"That is why they risk getting sick just to have something to eat," she said.

There are some 1,000 families in the neighborhood on the boundary of Cebu City and Mandaue, Tayo said.

Antonio Mandala, a resident, said people from as far as Talisay City, some 12 kilometers from here, went out of their way to buy the cheap rice.

Tayo quoted City Hall employees as saying the buried rice had been sprayed with pesticides.

ROUNDUP

Ecleo sis in shabu case

CEBU CITY—Criminal charges were filed before the Cebu Regional Trial Court against Rubylen Ecleo, 22, believed to be the half-sister of detained cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr., for allegedly possessing illegal drugs during a routine inspection of a passenger vessel. Ecleo was arrested on Aug. 10 on board MV Guian after inspectors found about 94 milligrams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) hidden inside a cigarette case. MV Guian had just arrived at the Cebu port from San Jose, Surigao del Norte. Assistant City Prosecutor Jesus Feliciano recommended P200,000 bail for her.

Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

Libel suit vs 'Bejo'

TACLOBAN CITY—The hearing of the P20-million libel suit filed by Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo against Tacloban Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez can now proceed at the Sandiganbayan after the Supreme Court's second division junked Romualdez' petition for certiorari, questioning the jurisdiction of the Office of the Ombudsman to conduct a preliminary investigation of the libel case. Aurel Menzon, Domingo's lawyer, said the ruling was a "landmark and precedent-setting decision," as a government official could now be charged with libel even if the statement was made in his private capacity. Domingo filed the case before the Ombudsman for calling him a "drug addict," a "silly, crazy no-good-person" and a "disgrace of the RDC (Regional Development Council)" during a radio interview on Aug. 20, 2001.

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Kidnapper yields

TAGBILARAN CITY—A suspect in the kidnapping of a woman and her two children in January has surrendered to the authorities. Supt. Louie Oppus, Tagbilaran police chief, said Noel Fernandez, 29, of Sevilla, Bohol, gave himself up on Thursday. Fernandez was one of the three suspects who kidnapped siblings Ruth and John Adante along with their mother Teodorica at the Bohol Wisdom School parking area Jan. 7. Police rescued the children after their mother, earlier freed to bring back P1.5 million in ransom, cooperated with the police. Only one suspect, Romeo Laguitao of Valencia, Bohol remained at large.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Measures vs drought

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Bohol government has started preparing measures to cushion the impact of El Niño that is feared to hit Bohol late this year. Vice Gov. Julius Caesar Herrera said that starting Sept. 8, the Provincial Agricultural Field Coordinating Office under the Department of Agriculture, will coordinate with provincial leaders in formulating and implementing policies to cushion the damage the drought might bring on Bohol's farms.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Canned fish recalled

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Provincial health officials ordered the recall of a brand of sardines from supermarkets, groceries and variety stores here after the Bureau of Food and Drugs found the sardines to have "worm-like strands" unfit for human consumption. The recall came after BFAD Director William Torres asked Eduardo Janairo, regional director of the Department of Health, to inventory the product's supply in the province and advise the establishment about the findings. Nemesia Mejia, Pangasinan health officer, said they have asked owners of supermarkets, groceries and variety stores to return the products to their suppliers.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Vice mayor in murder case

BAGUIO CITY—Murder charges were filed against a Kalinga vice mayor after he was linked to the Aug. 7 ambush of three policemen in Lubuagan, Kalinga. But reports reaching the Cordillera police said Lubuagan Vice Mayor Corey Dickpus had fled to Palawan. Dickpus, whom regional police officials said is one of the country's most wanted persons, was charged with three counts of murder on Tuesday before the Tabuk regional trial court in Kalinga. Police said Dickpus and several armed men ambushed a group of policemen at Barangay Danggoy in Lubuagan. PO1 Arthur Ambatcan, PO2 Nestor Mahiway and Insp. Nestor Miranda were killed while Supt. Antonio Gumiran, the team leader, was wounded in the ambush.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CRITICS of the Miss Baguio pageant imitate the pageant contestants with sashes around them carrying anti-pageant messages.

Angelito "Toots" Soberano

Militants train guns on Baguio beauty contest

BAGUIO CITY—Women activists and students here assailed the organizers of the annual Miss Baguio Pageant, saying pageants that "commodify" women should take the backstage so the city's resources could be channeled to basic services instead.

The pageant's coronation was held on Saturday, the eve of the 93rd charter anniversary of Baguio City. It was one of major activities lined up for the city's anniversary.

Five students acting as beauty pageant finalists symbolized the activists' issues against the Miss Baguio Pageant held at the Saint Louis University gymnasium here. The statements "no to sexism," "stop commodification (of women)," "women are not for sale" and "no to sexual harassment" were written on the protesters' ribbons.

Julie Palaganas, a member of the Lesbians for National Democracy, said the city government should create projects that would advance women's role in building the city rather than stage a beauty pageant that "would not benefit women in general."

"The city should address the problems on basic services rather than exploit women to project that we are not affected by these realities. Baguio residents have to deal with water shortage, high electric bills, low salary for workers and the privatization of government services," she said.

But Rebecca Domogan, one of the pageant organizers, said the city government spent little for the pageant. She said the city government only helped in the construction of the stage while most of the expenses came from the pageant's sponsors.

"Most venues for the activities were sponsored and so were the food and accommodations. There are more good people who are willing to help than to criticize," Domogan, the wife of Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, told the INQUIRER. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Solon lists tax shortfall effects

TWO million new jobs. At least 35,000 new teachers. Eighty-eight million textbooks. Five thousand classrooms.

These, according to Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr., are some of the things that the people stand to be deprived of as a result of the lowest ever tax collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the post-war period.

"With still five months of spending to go, the government has practically used up its target budget deficit of P130 billion having spent P120 billion as of June this year," Saludo said in a press statement.

Revision

He said finance and budget department officials have been reported to be revising budget deficit targets to anywhere from P160-180 billion.

Citing the Country Study on Meeting the Millennium Development Goals, Saludo said the P43 billion revenue shortfall may be translated into welfare losses in various sectors of the economy and society equivalent to the following:

- Labor and employment—Two million new jobs for the poor and unemployed
- Education—Enough funds to reduce the resource gap in basic education for the next two years which will provide funding to educate 11 million public primary schooling students; hire 35,000 new teachers; provide 88 million new textbooks; and construct additional 5,000 schools all over the country
- Health—Enough funds to meet resource requirements for basic health until year 2006 (costing P41 billion) to erode micronutrient deficiency for 500,000 women and children; and eradicate tuberculosis and other diseases
- Housing—More than 120 units of new low-cost housing shelters for the urban poor
- Agrarian Reform—Enough funds to transfer the balance of 1.1 million hectares of land to farmers

Angeles steps up condom use as HIV cases rise

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—"Just keep it handy!"

This catchphrase was seen starting Friday on jeepneys, in business establishments and public places in this city through an all-new set of stickers encouraging the use of "condoms as partners in protection."

It is the latest campaign advertisement of the Pearl S. Buck International Inc.-Philippines, Path Foundation Philippines Inc. and the United States Agency for International Development in their three-year condom promotion efforts with the Angeles City government.

The city enforces a three-year ordinance requiring 100-percent condom use as part of strategies in preventing the spread of AIDS, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases in the city.

The new condom drive is launched on the heels of 21 new HIV infections reported to the Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center in June.

The center's HIV/AIDS registry, released Tuesday, did not indicate where the virus carriers originated from.

The 21 new cases, which were almost double the 11 cases last January, brought to 1,715 the reported HIV cases in the country from January 1984, the center said.

Most of them belong to the 20-39 age group.

Six of the 21 cases already showed symptoms of AIDS, a life-threatening condition where the immune system is damaged. There still is no potent vaccine discovered to cure the AIDS virus.

The six new AIDS sufferers were men between 28-59 years old. Eighteen of the 21 new HIV cases afflicted men.

2 guerrillas slain, 6 captured in Army-NPA clashes

BONGABON, Nueva Ecija—Two suspected New People's Army rebels were killed while six others were captured in an encounter with government soldiers Friday at the boundary of San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan and Rodriguez, Rizal, Army reports here said.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the Army's 702nd Brigade based here, said government soldiers engaged a group of NPA rebels in Sitio Balagbag in Barangay San Isidro in Rodriguez town 6 a.m. Friday. The clash lasted for about 20 minutes, he said.

Narcise said the rebels were fleeing from operations launched by the Army's Task Force Makiling in Rizal. He said his men were in the area as a blocking force of the task force.

Army reports did not identify the slain NPA rebels. Captured were Gaudencio Cabilen, Salvador Dejero, Ronilo Estanez, Ramon Babiera, Arnold Culay and Eribar Lagunero.

The same NPA band, he said, fired at a military helicopter, causing the aircraft to crash. *Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

C. Luzon PNP head recalls relief of city police chief

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, Central Luzon police director, has recalled his relief order on this city's police director but denied he withdrew it on the intervention of Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

Calderon, in a phone interview, said it was not Arroyo but Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, who "requested for (the) delay in the implementation of the relief order" on Supt. Sonny Cunanan.

Calderon said it was Mendoza's way of giving Cunanan the chance to prove wrong the allegations that he was supporting or tolerating the operations of suspected jueteng financier Melchor Caluag.

Caluag, also known as Ngo-ngo, is also the barangay captain of Dolores, the commercial and business district of Pampanga.

Reports that Caluag offered 21 of his colleagues free trips to Hong Kong to support his bid for the chairmanship of the city's Association of Barangay Captains prompted the Department of Interior and Local Government to investigate him.

Calderon announced the relief of Cunanan last Monday, a week after the DILG began the investigation of Caluag.

He said he did so to "quell suspicions" that the local police was "getting protection money" from Caluag. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Sabaya issue catches US general 'flatfooted'

By Vincent Cabreza and Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Cadets of the Philippine Military Academy on Thursday badgered visiting Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of the United States' Balikatan forces, with the most bewildering question: "Is Abu Sabaya still alive?"

Wurster, who lectured senior and junior cadets about the tactical lessons of the Balikatan 02-1, admitted to reporters here that the question caught him flatfooted.

He said he was "amazed" and "confused" by the Filipinos' obsessive interest on Sabaya's fate more than two months after his reported death in a sea clash with Army soldiers in Zamboanga del Norte.

Wurster said the Filipinos' response to the issues of the Abu Sayyaf and international terrorism will be one of the details the US military plans to study when it designs a new Balikatan training course.

The US military official flew in from Zamboanga on Wednesday in one of his last Philippine tours before he leaves for Camp H.M. Hawaii where he leads the US Special Operations Command in the Pacific.

ANGELITO "TOOTS" SOBERANO

WURSTER with Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent.

Wurster proceeded to a closed-door lecture on the "Balikatan exercises," which dealt with specialized tactical and strategic information about the recent Abu Sayyaf operations in Basilan.

Despite the PMA cadets' fascination with revelations about US tactics and equipment, some of their questions still dwelt on the Abu Sayyaf and Sabaya, Wurster said.

PMA sources said the issue had been one of the hottest topics among the cadets, particularly because of the involvement of PMA graduates in the Basilan siege.

"(The American Embassy) already stated that (they stand by the Philippine government's assertion) Sabaya is dead. But I'm amazed that (Sabaya) keeps coming up. That's something I really don't understand. I don't care where he is or where his body is. What's important is he's dead," Wurster said.

He said he wanted to expound on the US military's employment of the "triangle strategy," which the US government has been applying to address the Philippines' terrorist problem.

The triangle sides refer to the connections among terrorists, the community and the government, he said.

"Everything we've done is designed to connect the people to their government," Wurster said.

The US troops helped the Philippine government in cracking down on the Abu Sayyaf by introducing new weapons and tactics training and offering US military gear for ground intelligence support, he said.

But Wurster said their more important goal was to disconnect the terrorist link to the community by helping shore up social and economic projects like building roads and medical support operations.

He said the US military in Basilan had been able to respond to at least 600 medical complaints brought to them by residents during their six-month long war exercises.

He said Philippine polls still gave the American military presence in Mindanao an "overwhelming positive rating," despite massive protests and the investigation of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), led by Filipino, American and European civil rights advocates.

The ISM had been protesting the presence of 600 American troopers in the Philippines and their deployment to conflict areas in Mindanao.

Wurster said the new Balikatan training designs would reduce the deployment of US forces in "high risk" regions of the Philippines.

Most Pinatubo projects went to GMA town

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 15 of 19 desilting projects funded by money recovered by the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission (MPC) were implemented in Lubao, the hometown of President Macapagal-Arroyo, documents gathered by the INQUIRER showed.

The Second Pampanga Engineering District of the Department of Public Works and Highways, to which the Department of Budget and Management disbursed P32.8 million, poured P27.2 million to Lubao alone from December last year to April this year.

Based on MPC records, however, the district office only received P24.8 million out of P563 million the DBM transferred to nine engineering districts and provincial governments in Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales and the DPWH's Mount Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project Management Office for desilting and dredging.

This meant the Second Pampanga Engineering District received an additional P7.9 million.

But the limited funds it got were concentrated in Lubao, where Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo maintains a house.

Denial

Arroyo denied working for the release of those funds in the hometown of the Macapagals.

His earlier claim of having been able to "work out the release of some P700 million," of which P500 million is "being poured into the desilting and improvement of the Guagua-Pasac River and adjoining waterways" turned out to be just in the planning stage.

He made the claim in a press release marking his first year in office. A DPWH official said Arroyo's office had not received such funding.

Guagua town received only three desilting projects worth less than P4 million. Floodwaters from the cities of Angeles and San Fernando, Mexico, Bacolor and Sto. Tomas towns and the Pasig-Potrero River drain in Guagua.

Only one desilting project worth P1.8 million was implemented in Sasmuan town, which like Guagua is also upstream of Lubao.

A DPWH map of current and future anti-flood mitigation measures showed that the desilting projects in Lubao did not clear the waterways deemed crucial in easing the problem of months-long flooding in the areas of the Gumain and Porac Rivers that crisscrossed the three towns.

The Dalan Bapor River, which joins the Guagua River, was not cleared of silt.

Failure

The 19 desilting projects appeared to have failed in reducing floods in the three towns.

Last July or about two months after most of the projects were completed, floods from almost three weeks of heavy rains in Lubao, Guagua and Sasmuan were worse than usual.

Documents also showed that the 19 desilting projects in the Second Pampanga Engineering District went only to seven contractors.

However, a contractor—the Filnet Construction and Trading—got the two biggest contracts in Lubao worth P4.7 million each.

The First Pampanga Engineering District, which got the largest share of the MPC-recovered funds at P82.8 million, awarded eight of its 14 projects to just one contractor.

The Dungan Construction and Trading alone cornered P42.7-million worth of projects. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cebu, Panay, Negros to experience power outages

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The islands of Cebu, Negros and Panay will experience intermittent brownouts during a scheduled repair work on the Leyte-Cebu submarine cable on Sept. 5-21.

In a media briefing Monday, officials of the National Power Corporation (Napocor) and the Transmission Company (Transco) in Western Visayas said consumers will experience power interruptions ranging from an hour to three hours averaging two to three days per week during the repair period.

The power interruptions will occur between 6-9 p.m. during weekdays when the power demand in the Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) power grid is expected to surpass the CNP power plant capacity during the repair period, which will start 8 p.m. on Sept. 5 until 10 a.m. of Sept. 21.

Repairs will be made on the 32-kilometer 230 kV submarine cable, connecting the cable terminal stations in Tabango town, Leyte and in Talisay City, Cebu.

The cable is considered the most important link in the Visayas serving the CNP grid. It delivers a maximum of 200 mw from Leyte, which is connected to power plants in Luzon.

The damaged portion of the cable located a kilometer from Cebu was discovered during a joint inspection of Napocor and Alcatel divers on March 18 to May 13, 1999. Damages on three of the four cables were discovered with two cables requiring major repairs.

Rene Sison, superintendent of the Napocor system operations center of Negros and Panay, said the damage to the cable was caused by rampant dynamite fishing in the area. The dynamite blasts damaged the steel covering of the four-inch thick cable, which is covered by 13 layers of rubber, steel and plastic insulation.

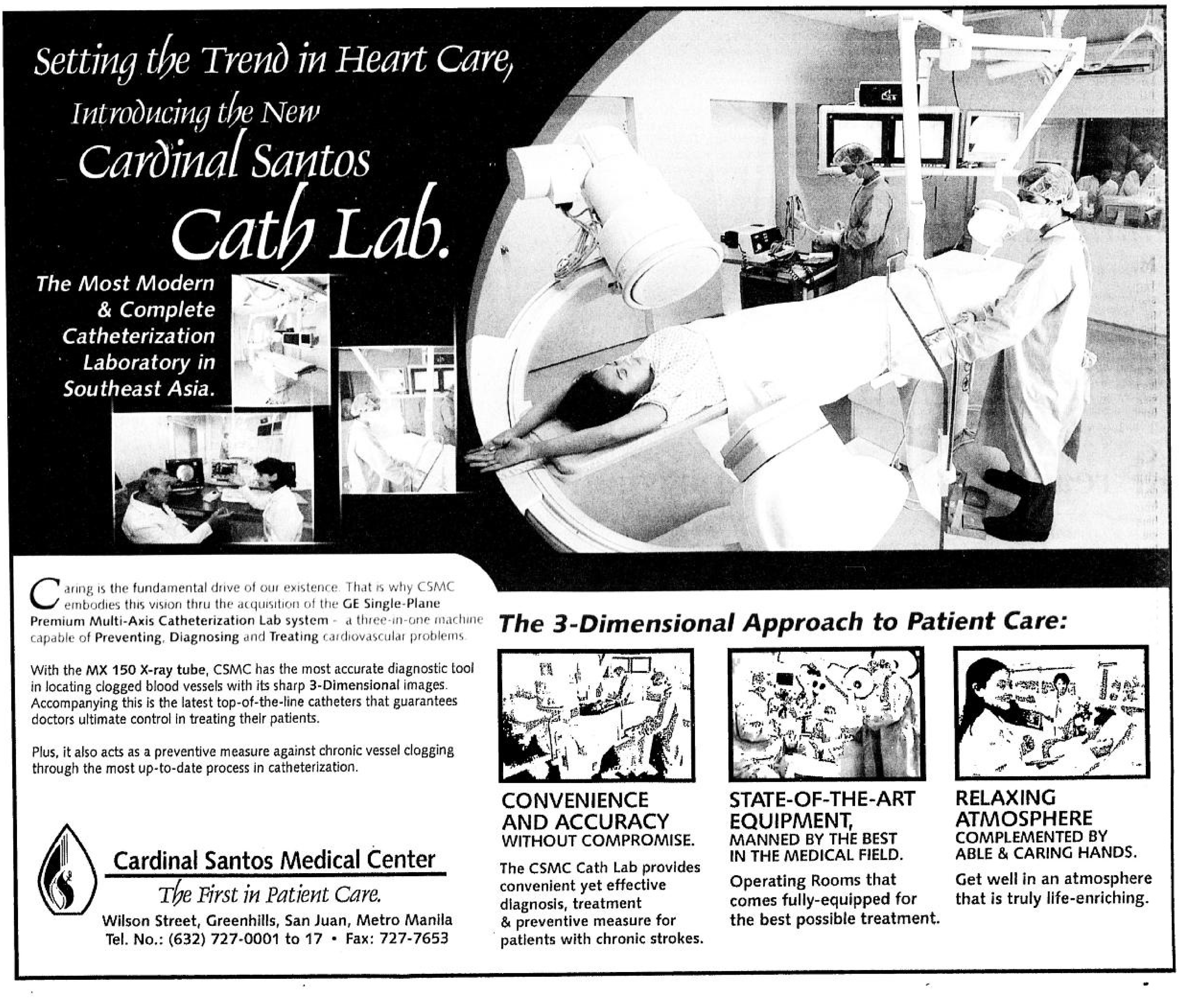
The repair to be undertaken by the Norwegian firm Nexan will last 28 days.

This will require the cutting off and replacement of the damaged part of the cable.

During the repair, power supply in the CNP power grid is expected to become "very critical," according to a briefing paper.

The total capacity with the Leyte-Cebu submarine cable reaches 825 mw, higher than the total power demand of 564 mw during off-peak hours and 629 mw during peak hours.

But with the shutting down of the Leyte-Cebu interconnection, supply will be reduced to 625 mw, just slightly higher than the off-peak demand.



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GMA goes ballistic anew over rice distribution

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo's famous temper showed up anew Monday when she confronted National Food Authority officials in Nueva Ecija on the distribution of government rice.

In San Isidro town where she graced the Nueva Ecija Day celebration, the President, in her speech, said that "although lately, I have not gone ballistic, I went ballistic this morning."

She was referring to the incident where she flared up when NFA officials failed to show her accurate figures on the distribution of NFA rice in the province.

On Monday, before proceeding to San Isidro, Ms Macapagal visited the warehouses and rice milling facilities of the NFA here.

She said she wanted to know if indeed low-cost government rice has been reaching the poor.

While being briefed by regional and provincial NFA officials, Ms Macapagal asked how many truckloads of rice were released that day.

When told that 15 truckloads were released to different NFA outlets, the President asked for the warehouse receipt for the dispatch.

PRESIDENT Macapagal questions National Food Authority officials in Cabanatuan City on the distribution of government rice in Nueva Ecija. Looking on is NFA Administrator Tony Abad (center). ERIK ARAZAS

Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for North Luzon affairs, said an NFA official who was near the President gave her a supposed warehouse receipt, "but it turned out it was a summary report of the past days' release of NFA rice."

When the President pointed out that it was not a warehouse receipt for the day, the official, whom Diaz did not identify, said the 15 truckloads were actually released last Friday.

The President then asked for the NFA logbook to verify the figures. It was then that the NFA official admitted that the 15 truckloads of rice were released "in the last few days" and not for that day, Diaz said.

"The President flared up," Diaz said. "The President wanted to know what is actually happening about the release of low-priced rice in the market. She needed an accurate report."

Ms Macapagal said she has a "zero tolerance" for the rice crisis and she does not believe "in a calibrated solution." She said it is better to have a little "overreaction," especially on a perceived problem about rice supply.

But while she admitted to going ballistic, Ms Macapagal also said she was happy that she had proven that there was NFA rice in the market.

She visited the public market in Sta. Rosa town, about 8 km from here, to check if low-priced NFA rice is being sold there.

"I am happy to say that I saw NFA rice being sold in the market for P16 a kilogram. I also saw one (outlet) selling rice at P15 a kg. Congratulations, NFA," she said.

Estrada denies role in Naia 3 contract

From page A1

Philippine International Air Terminals Co. asked Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco to explain what he called the $100-million question.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras said the German consortium Fraport AG, in its Aug. 6 letter to Climaco, had set a minimum price of $300 million for any buyout. But Climaco reportedly offered the German partners $400 million instead.

"This is the $100-million question," said Paras, chair of the House committee on transportation which investigated the Piatco contract.

Privatization policy

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II assured investors that the government's review of the Piatco contract did not mean a reversal of the government's privatization policy.

"The government is standing firm on its pursuit of privatization. The Piatco review is not a turnaround of the government's privatization policy because the government has no plans of taking over the airport and will not pay a single peso to buy out Fraport," Roxas said.

He said the government had taken cognizance of businessmen's concerns over possibly unnecessary government meddling in a private contract.

In a press briefing, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the Cabinet committee formed to review the Piatco contract was authorized to renegotiate every aspect of "all operations within Terminal 3, including air traffic fare and maintenance, cargo handling and catering."

"All of these shall be considered with the end view of asserting the right of the government to provide welfare (for) our passengers," Perez said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo named Perez committee chair, and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Neda Director General Dante Canlas, Roxas and Climaco as members.

Perez said the participation of Climaco in the review and renegotiation of the contract was pivotal. "The panel was created by the President, and I don't see any reason why we should disqualify Secretary Climaco. Her intimate knowledge of the terms of the contract might be useful to the committee."

He said that the committee convened yesterday morning "and I'm now in the process of studying all the provisions of the contract."

Perez emphasized that the government was not keen on taking over the operations of Naia 3.

"The government will not take over the Piatco contract as much as possible. It is only when the parties have given up on Piatco that the government will take over (the project). But unless that happens, the government would rather allow the private sector to operate the same. The government, however, will take into account the welfare of the people and the welfare of the nation as a guide in making the renegotiation of terms of the contract."

Other reactions

In the Senate, the proposed buyout received more criticisms.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said a takeover could backfire on the government. "It is curious that the Palace is exposing these alleged flaws and onerous terms of the contract only now, when the terminal project is about to be completed," he said.

Pimentel also challenged Malacañang to disprove the claim of Piatco counsel Eduardo de los Angeles that it was the Palace, and not Fraport, which proposed the buyout in the first place.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said she was puzzled by Mendoza's silence, considering that the DOTC was the lead agency overseeing the agreement.

"How come Mendoza is conspicuously silent on this raging controversy?" Oreta asked.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said there was a need to remove the problem of overspending in the Piatco deal, considering that airlines and air passengers should not be charged double when they use the terminal. ***With reports from Juliet Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia Balana***

Grumbling starts . . .

From page A1

56 on Sept. 12, but this does not pose a problem, according to a Malacañang source, as he will be extended when he is appointed as AFP chief of staff.

"Defensor should have the delicadeza to withdraw his name from consideration and stop inflicting himself upon the institution," another officer said.

He pointed out that Defensor would serve for only three to four months if his term extended, greatly hampering continuity and stability in the AFP.

"What can you do in three or four months? It's like a casual position. He would have a chop-chop (tenure)," the officer said.

He said Defensor was a "lousy choice. They know that the officers and the rank and file are opposed to extensions."

In text messages sent to military officers, a group calling itself the ACT protested "politicking" in the choice of the next AFP chief of staff.

"We should not let politics subvert the ideals of the AFP. We (should not) allow mob rule. Bring back decency and sensibility," the message said.

Attempts to determine the identities of those behind the messages proved futile as the cell phones that they used were either closed or out of coverage area.

Honasan

Only opposition Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan, a former Army colonel, spoke on record against the selection process for the next AFP chief of staff.

Honasan called on President Macapagal-Arroyo "to choose the next AFP chief of staff whose tour of duty would allow him to uninterruptedly pursue the much-delayed AFP modernization and avert demoralization experienced by the military during every change in the AFP leadership."

"Let us not politicize further the military," Honasan said in a statement. "The image of the institution has been badly damaged, if not altogether maligned by some quarters."

Honasan said the President should avoid "the pitfall of virtually contracting the position of AFP chief of staff."

He said the selection process should be "insulated from political accommodation and patronage." Defensor is a brother of ousted President Joseph Estrada's ally Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

"The main criteria that ought to be applied to all nominees are the experience, knowledge and competence of the nominee in command management and integrity as a professional soldier," Honasan said.

Presidential prerogative is important in the selection process, but "(this) must not be the decisive factor especially if the ratings of the different nominees are almost the same," the senator said.

AFP modernization

Honasan said the President should "appoint the next AFP chief of staff who is not about to retire either in the next few months or early next year but someone who can carry on successfully the AFP modernization program."

"Stability and continuity in the AFP command must be given the highest priority as the country is facing numerous serious threats to national security, notably the global threat of terrorism and rampant criminality," he said.

A military officer in Camp Aguinaldo agreed with Honasan, saying it would be better if Ms Macapagal named someone who could serve for two to three years so he could implement medium- and long-term projects based on "attainable vision."

Another officer said the Army had a "selfish" motive in opposing the appointment of Defensor because his appointment would leave many officers in their posts to "mark time."

The President earlier said Cimatu's replacement would be chosen from among six three-star generals. The short-list included Lt. Narciso Abaya, AFP deputy chief of staff; Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, vice chief of staff; Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, Army commander; Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco, Navy flag officer in command; and Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief.

"On the whole, (Defensor's) credentials are OK but he is an Air Force officer and the AFP is fighting a ground war," the second officer said.

Other mid-level officers are worried of an Air Force man as the next AFP chief of staff because it will adversely affect the AFP modernization program.

"Let's face it, the AFP is personality-oriented. An Air Force man means that modernization will focus on the Air Force," the officer said.

"We had an Air Force man as chief of staff before and the ground war was not given enough attention. His projects were more of legacy projects," he said.

The officer said soldiers could live with it but added the institution could only take so much.

"His appointment could be defended but it would mean no movements (promotions) . . . the institution is being damaged by the extensions, and the Communist Party of the Philippines is getting stronger," he said. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

Airlines doubt Nov. 26 opening of Naia 3

By Abigail L. Ho

THERE will be no flights out of the controversial Naia Terminal 3 on Nov. 26. Take it from international airlines operating in the country.

The Board of Airline Representatives, an organization of international airlines, wrote a letter to Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) chief Edgardo Manda last week, questioning the Nov. 26 opening date set by Naia 3 builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co.

"They questioned the operational preparedness of the new terminal," Manda said in a phone interview. "They said most of its systems were not yet ready for opening as it needed at least six months of checking and testing before actual operations. They also haven't agreed on rates."

In the letter sent last Thursday, the airlines stressed that they needed at least six months to be able to transfer to a new terminal because they had to seek approval from their head offices to do so.

Also, they needed enough lead time to be able to bid out the construction of their offices at the new terminal.

Piatco and the airlines had also reached a "stalemate" on the rates the tenants would pay for setting up shop in the new terminal, Manda said.

RP readies Iraq contingency plan

From page A1

Filipinos should it become necessary, the foreign department said in a statement.

"There was recognition that an attack by the US on Iraq, and an Iraqi military response to such an attack, could affect the safety of the Filipinos in the Middle East," it added. ***(See related story on Page A10)***

The plan includes ways of relocating the Filipinos and processes by which funds could be easily released, the statement said.

About 25,000 Filipinos working in the region were repatriated during the 1991 Gulf War.

The department said there was a possibility that "non-conventional weapons" could be used in case of an attack on Iraq, which would "present difficult challenges" that have been factored in the planning.

The Philippines, however, will continue to actively support diplomatic efforts and peaceful dialogue to solve the conflict.

US survey

Despite criticism in the United States and elsewhere, a solid majority of Americans supports military action against Iraq to remove President Saddam Hussein from power, according to a new public opinion poll made public Monday.

But the survey, by The Los Angeles Times, also indicates that most of those who support a strike against Iraq want the United States to win backing from key US allies before launching military action.

Fifty-nine percent of Americans believed the United States should take military action to remove Saddam from power, 29 percent were opposed, and 12 percent were unsure, the poll showed.

An even larger majority—64 percent—said they would support a ground attack on Iraq, if President George W. Bush decided to launch one, according to the survey.

However, 61 percent of those who support military action said they believed Washington should attack Baghdad only if the international community supported the move.

The poll also found that public support for war with Iraq might drop significantly if US forces suffered significant casualties.

When asked whether they would support a ground attack on Iraq if casualties were high, 45 percent said yes and 41 percent said no, The Times said.

A similar Los Angeles Times survey conducted just after Bush declared Iraq an "axis of evil" nation in January found that support for military action against Baghdad stood at that time at more than 70 percent.

The nationwide poll of 1,372 conducted Aug. 22-25 had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points, The Times said.

In London, 71 percent of the British people oppose taking part in a war against Iraq without United Nations approval, according to a poll published Monday by the Daily Mirror.

The poll found 41 percent believed an attack against Iraq to overthrow Saddam would be justified if it were approved by the UN while 12 percent backed such a move even without UN approval.

Osama bin Laden, head of al-Qaida, was considered a threat to world peace by 77 percent of those questioned, while 75 percent named Saddam and 51 percent, Bush.

A total of 31 percent believed a new terrorist attack similar to those of Sept. 11 in the United States was very likely; 7 percent, inevitable; and 51 percent, possible.

The ICM institute questioned a sample of 1,001 adults between Aug. 27 and 29. ***AFP***

High school . . .

From page A1

schedule.

Of the class' 43 members, 20 made it to Sunday's event—a "nostalgic graduation ceremony" that proved to be the highlight of Tarlac National's centenary celebration. The institution is the country's first national high school.

The "new" graduates included Panfilo Domingo, former president of the Philippine National Bank and chair of the University of the East; Jesus Solomon, an executive of United Laboratories; and Natividad Paras-Nisce, the matriarch behind Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines

But possibly the most prominent member of the class, writer and former Executive Secretary Juan Tuvera, did not make it to his graduation. He died a few years ago.

Domingo spoke on behalf of the graduates. While their graduation came six decades late, he said, well after most of them had already built successful careers and then retired, the exercise still "meant the whole world to us."

Their diploma, Domingo said, was a "priceless gift," because it was a symbol of a "youth abridged by war" and how they were able to cope and survive afterward.

The ceremony made them remember the sound of bombs from nearby Clark Air Base in Pampanga, he said, as well as the fear in their hearts when they thought the world was coming to its end.

For the guests, mostly children and grandchildren of the graduates, the rites were also a glimpse of history.

The conferment was done by Victoria Aguas, Tarlac schools division superintendent, on behalf of then Supt. Conrado Genilo.

Aguas confirmed the class' graduation of March 22, 1942, as they had "satisfied the requirements for secondary education prescribed by the Department of Instructions of the Commonwealth of the Philippines."

SEC. CLIMACO's new B.O.T. Law-
BUILD-OPPRESS-TAKEOVER

So that the public may know:

TRUTH: PIATCO IS NOT CHARGING US$20 TERMINAL FEE FOR ITSELF

Sec. Climaco conveniently and dubiously hid the fact that it was the government that insisted to charge an additional US$7.84 in the terminal fee representing government's share - **with the government not having any investment and no operating costs in the terminal.**

FACTS AND FIGURES

CURRENT NAIA 1 TERMINAL FEE	PIATCO ACTUAL TERMINAL FEE	GOVT.'S SHARE IN PIATCO'S TERMINAL FEE
US$11.00	US$12.16	+ US$7.84

Out of US$20, Government gets US$7.84 and PIATCO only **US$12.16** which is only **US$1** higher than present airport terminal fee, for an airport four times bigger and with superior amenities.

OFWS are **EXEMPT** from paying terminal fees in NAIA 3. OFWS account for more than 30% of passenger traffic.

- Even while there were supposed to be ongoing talks between PIATCO and the Government, Sec. Climaco continually hurled obstacles to the early implementation of the NAIA IPT3 Project, contrary to her mandate under Executive Order No. 79
- Sec. Climaco even announced in the papers that she made FRAPORT **"so happy"** with a handsome payout of US$400M plus 6.2% interest for 15 years, and yet the rest of PIATCO's stockholders have been deliberately shut out from all these negotiations.
- All these to **destabilize** PIATCO and make the situation conducive to the Government's **take-over** of NAIA IPT3 and the rebidding of NAIA IPT3 in 18 months!

PRIVATE NA, GUSTO PANG I-PRIVATIZE ULIT!

PIATCO IS NOT ASKING FOR A SINGLE CENTAVO FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NAIA IPT3 AND ITS OPERATION OVER 25 YEARS, THE TRUTH IS, GOVERNMENT IS GUARANTEED TO EARN P 17.3 BILLION OVER 25 YEARS. IS THIS DISADVANTAGEOUS TO GOVERNMENT?

SECRETARY CLIMACO INSTEAD WANTS THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FILIPINO PEOPLE TO PAY FRAPORT SOME P21 BILLION OR US$400M FOR THE SAME PROJECT THEY WOULD OTHERWISE GET FOR P 1.00 AFTER 25 YEARS.

NAIA IPT 3 PROJECT IS 98% COMPLETE AND SEC. CLIMACO WANTS TO CONFISCATE IT AND HAND IT OVER ON A SILVER PLATTER TO A "DESIGNEE" ! WHY?

PIATCO
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL AIR TERMINALS CO., INC.
NAIA Passenger Terminal 3

PAID ADVT.

RP team asks Sabah officials for leniency

From page A1

go home, but we have to wait and wait."

The BRP Bacolod City LC 550 and the Coast Guard ship should have left Malaysia two days ago. But the passengers have to wait for the Philippine team to check on their condition and that of other Filipinos still in the detention camps.

Jaafar, a former representative of Tawi-Tawi, said his team would visit the camps in Karamunting in Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, and, "if necessary," Tauao in the southernmost tip of Sabah.

Again if necessary, the team will recommend the establishment of at least three departure areas to handle the Filipinos, he said.

But despite Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's grant of a request from President Macapagal-Arroyo for the inspection of the detention camps, Sabah Chief Minister Chong Kah Kiat told the official Bernama news agency that the crackdown on undocumented immigrants would continue.

"Basically, the request from the Philippine President is for Malaysia to halt the deportation process of Filipino nationals to give them the opportunity to see how the immigrants were treated while in detention," Agence France Presse quoted Chong as saying.

"We will give full cooperation," he said. "They will meet me. They will visit the three detention centers in Sabah. There is no ill treatment."

But Chong warned that the Philippines was now responsible for the welfare of the Filipinos on board the ships.

No access

Philippine officials have not been allowed to visit thousands of Filipinos and their families thrown into the cramped jails. So far, three infants have died while dozens have been hospitalized because of dehydration, malnutrition and illnesses contracted during the long detention.

Jaafar said he and his team would ask Sabah authorities to allow Filipino social workers access to the camps.

He said that "if possible," they would also negotiate for ample time to process the travel papers of undocumented Filipino workers intending to return to Sabah.

The Department of Foreign Affairs estimates that around 80,000 more undocumented Filipinos remain in Sabah, he said.

"But we believe there are a lot more (to be expelled) considering that most of our Filipino workers there are still hiding for fear of being caned or deported," he said.

About 20,000 have been expelled since January.

Jaafar said they would bring home some 500 Filipinos still detained in Sabah. After that, there will be no more deportation until the team finishes its work, he said.

The team is scheduled to be in Malaysia until Sept. 5.

Jaafar said their mission did not include bringing up the revival of the Philippines' claim on Sabah. ***(See related story on this page.)***

The President met with Jaafar and his team in Malacañang before she left for Cabanatuan City.

She ordered them to inspect the camps and recommend measures to ensure the safety and welfare of the Filipinos detained there.

The other members of the team are Labor Undersecretary Lucy Lazo; Health Undersecretary Mila Fernandez; Foreign Under-secretary Arturo Brion; Undersecretary Abraham Purugganan of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Special Concerns;

Social Welfare director Farisya Taradji; Col. Francisco Gudani of the Department of National Defense; Abdel Gani Papua of the Office of Muslim Affairs; and Rey Milan of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Regional Development.

No food

A member of the Philippine repatriation team in Sandakan, who refused to be named, said there was no food left.

"We have to spend for food and water using our budget," said the team member. "The government did not provide a budget, but can we just let them die?"

Dr. Fran Fernandez, physician on board the Coast Guard ship, said the weak and the sick, mostly mothers and infants, had been isolated.

"Most of the patients are children younger than 4 years old. There are 14 of them—two were in critical dehydration caused by amoebiasis and malnutrition," he said.

But most of the patients are feeling better, Fernandez said. "We did everything to look after their health. They're better now, except for the two who need strict monitoring."

Volunteers from the Department of Health in Manila said a child suffering from serious dehydration was still confined at a hospital, along with two children afflicted with chicken pox and four suffering from malnutrition.

The repatriation team has been distributing information leaflets saying undocumented Filipinos would be provided with boarding passes and travel documents for free.

Welcome

In Davao City, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he would welcome the expelled Filipinos to his city.

"If they want to come here . . . they are welcome even if it will mean a crowded city," he said. "We will try to cope with the situation. They can find solace in our arms."

But Duterte called on Malaysia to show a little respect to Filipinos, "just like a good neighbor."

People of Basilan rank first in the number of Filipinos expelled from Malaysia, according to Dr. Elias Sana, assistant health secretary in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said the unstable peace and order situation in the province was the primary reason for this. ***With reports from Julie S. Alipala and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP***

DENNIS SABANGAN

UNDOCUMENTED Filipinos, numbering 486, await government probers aboard the BRP Bacolod in Karamunting port in Sandakan.

YEAR-OLD Loriza Roslan, who is suffering from dehydration, greets Filipino journalists with a smile.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Sabah . . .

From page A1

low Muslims," Ayyul, 24, told the INQUIRER.

Ayyul said the women would be ordered to go upstairs in the morning. "They come down at night or even in the morning of the next day. But they seem happy because they are given food and always allowed to use the bathroom," she said.

Jumadam Jaiman of Sitangkay in Siasi made the same claim. He described Azri as tall, "*pero masyadong hambog* (but very arrogant)."

"He'd just point to a woman and tell her to go upstairs," said Jaiman, 54. "Sometimes the woman would stay there the whole night. When she came back, she'd have food with her."

Akbirul said that when he asked the women he named what they were doing upstairs, they said they were only talking with the policemen.

Bongao parish priest Fr. Rito Daquipil, OMI, said that if the Malaysian police could "maltreat children and infants, what more sexually abuse women?"

"It's just that the victims are ashamed to relate their experience," he said.

Daquipil called on the abused women to come forward. He also urged the Philippine government to do something about the alleged sex slavery.

Provincial Social Welfare Officer Hania Aliakbar said she had also heard stories about the supposed abuses, and lamented the fact that no one was willing to bear witness. "We cannot prove these allegations unless somebody is brave enough to admit her ordeal," Aliakbar said.

Release of 122 Chinese poachers questioned

From page A1

rine park and a Unesco World Heritage Site, were far more serious than those committed by the Chinese caught at the Scarborough Shoal.

Recovered from the poachers caught at Tubbataha were two dolphins and 20 endangered fishes. Seven sacks of live corals and seaweeds were seized from the poachers at the shoal.

From January to May, the Navy, Coast Guard and World Wildlife Fund Task Force arrested 136 Chinese fishermen in the waters surrounding Palawan. Of the total, 14 minors had been released, leaving 122 still in jail.

Like Carranza, Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra is against the release of the 122 Chinese poachers.

"The National Commission on Illegal Entrants (NCIE) should not set free people who destroyed our environment. People from the DFA should get out of their air-conditioned office and see the destruction the Chinese have done," Mitra said. The NCIE is headed by the DFA.

Carranza, a member of the NCIE, said the commission could not decide on the release of the poachers because criminal charges had been filed against the Chinese.

"Why should we let them go, considering the extent of environmental damage that they have done?" Mitra said.

In a privileged speech he delivered on March 12, Mitra said the average fish catch of a fisherman has decreased from 10 kilos to two kilos a day and that almost P50 billion is lost every year due to poaching activities.

Should the Chinese poachers be released, Mitra said he would call on every Palaweño to rally behind him to protest the release.

"We need the support of non-government organizations and the local media to protest this move," he said.

Court order

Adelina Benavente-Villena, legal officer of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), said there must be "a court order first before the Chinese can be released."

Villena explained that as long as the criminal charges filed against the poachers were pending in court, the Chinese could not be released.

"They (DFA) cannot release the Chinese without a court order. The first thing that they can do is (for the court) to drop the case. But we are the complainant and we have no plans of dropping the case," she said.

Edward Lorenzo, legal counsel of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center, said "Filipinos are being treated like floor mats because of our leaders."

Norwin Abis, WWF-Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas law enforcement officer, said releasing the poachers would be "unfair."

"They are using diplomatic strategy too much just to avoid embarrassment," Abis said.

The trial of the six poaching cases filed against the Chinese was delayed as the court was consolidating all other illegal fishing cases filed against them.

The Regional Trial Court is also having difficulty getting Chinese interpreters. As a result, the arraignment of the 20 Chinese arrested near Cagayancillo Island was postponed twice.

Villena described efforts to prosecute the remaining 122 Chinese fishermen as "emotionally draining and frustrating especially since our national policy is generally lenient to Chinese poachers."

From 1995 until June this year, some 695 foreigners on 45 vessels were arrested in the waters of Palawan. Of the total, 484 were from the People's Republic of China and 132 from Malaysia.

The rest were Vietnamese, Indonesians and Taiwanese.

Daily flights to ***Singapore***

starting ***October 1.***

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SBC Sports Hall of Fame

SAN Beda College and its alumni association (SBCAA) have lauched the first-ever San Beda Sports Hall of Fame awards. All Bedans, both living and dead, whose vision, talent, commitment and dedicated service helped shape Philippine sports, are eligible for nomination and selection. The judging will be in Nov. with the awarding ceremonies to be held Feb. 22, 2003.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ⊕ Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

FOUR DIGIT

Luzon 9 4 4 0 (In exact order)

Vis-Min 4 4 7 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45

12 22 24 28 33 42

SUERTRES 4 2 2

Knights beat Blazers, cop 5th in NCAA

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	10	3
CSB	9	4
PCU	9	4
JRU	9	4
Letran	7	6
Mapua	6	7
UPHR	1	12
San Beda	1	12

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—SSC vs JRU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

LETRAN College retrieved some of its pride and dignity after stunning College of St. Benilde, 85-80, yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Although they're already out of the Final Four, the Knights still fought like it was a championship crusade, drawing out the best from Ronjay Enrile and rookie Boyet Bautista as they improved to 7-6.

Bautista and Enrile came up with 23 points each with the pint-sized Bautista drilling in four triples that inflicted a great deal of pain to the Blazers.

The Blazers lost their third straight game and dropped into a tie with the PCU Dolphins at 9-4, putting their twice-to-beat bid in the Final Four in peril.

The Blazers and the Dolphins meet on Friday with the winner earning one of the top two spots and the twice-to-beat advantage that goes with it.

"We're already out of the running in the semifinals so there's no pressure on us," said Letran coach Louie Alas. "But at least we're guaranteed of a decent finish," added Alas, whose Knights are assured of a fifth-place finish even if they wrap up their elimination stint on a sorry note against Mapua on Friday.

The Knights engaged the Blazers in a tiring battle three-fourths of the way before Enrile and Bautista took matters in their hands.

Emotions also flared up when Enrile claimed that CSB assistant coach Arsenio Tysangco landed a punch on his chest with 1.16 remaining, triggering a debate among officials and players of both squads.

After cooler heads intervened, the Knights went on with their scoring spree as Enrile, Bautista, and Harold Sta. Cruz sank seven of their eight freethrows in the last 29 seconds.

In the other varsity game, Jose Rizal University drubbed University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 88-79, to create a three-way tie at second place.

The Heavy Bombers now have identical 9-4 records with the Blazers and the Dolphins. The Altas fell to 1-12 in a tie with the San Beda Red Lions.

LETRAN 85—Bautista 23, Enrile 23, Sta. Cruz 13, Santos 7, Rodriguez 6, Reyes 6, Aban 4, Sillona 3, Syhongpan 0, Edwards 0, Anabo 0, Ebajay 0.

ST. BENILDE 80—Salvacion 18, Tolentino 18, Sagad 10, Capati 10, Perlas 9, Orbeta 6, Magpayo 5, Mendoza 2, Coching 2, Castro 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 35-44, 58-57, 85-80.

UP, Army B hurdle foes

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines and Army B hurdled their respective rivals last weekend to post their second straight victories in the 2nd Army-Utilco International Invitational Football Cup tournament at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

After Oscar Mejia gave UP a 1-0 halftime lead, the Maroons exploded for two more goals to beat University of Santo Tomas, 3-1.

Randy Salisad sparkled with four goals as the Army B booters blasted Korea Football Assocaition, 6-0. Salisad struck in the eighth, 37th, 65th and 71st minutes.

Four other matches in the tourney organized by Army, sponsored by Utilco and sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation all ended in draws.

Far Eastern University rallied on a goal by Robert Ponce to tie PCU-Dasmariñas, 1-1; College of St. Benilde and University of the East fought to a scoreless deadlock; Pasargard came back strong to hold De La Salle University to a 2-2 stalemate; San Beda battled highly rated Kaya FC to a 1-1 draw.

Ateneo, Claret win

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Ateneo and Claret scored lopsided victories Saturday at the start of the 19 Coke Go-for Goal Zamboanga under-16 football eliminations at Don Joaquin Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex field here.

Claret ripped Filipino-Turkish Tolerance High, 6-2, while the Ateneans crushed Don Pablo Lorenzo Memorial High, 10-1.

Dave Villar starred for Claret by knocking in four goals in the 61st, 71st, 72nd and 74th minutes, while Christian Filoteo added two in the 27th and 35th minutes.

Adbdel Raza Amin and Leohen Ibrahim produced Filipino-Turkish Tolerance School's twin markers.

Councilor Manuel Dalipe Jr., project director Jojo Rodriguez and Zamboanga Football Association president Vicente Javier graced the opening ceremony.

SELECTA-RP QUINTET

Tougher and stronger–Jong

By June Navarro

UICHICO

PLAYING against the Melbourne Tigers of Australia was basically similar to playing against the Italians.

The only difference, RP coach Jong Uichico said, is the fact that his boys have improved a lot ever since their Italy sojourn three months ago.

"When you play against bigger, better and stronger teams like the teams during our Italy trip and the Tigers, you become tougher and stronger too. That's the experience that we got when we played these teams," said Uichico.

The Nationals yielded to the Tigers, 80-76, in the opener, but reclaimed their pride with a 94-91 win over the Aussies last Saturday.

"As a team and as individuals, I can say that we have improved a lot. We discovered that certain things don't work against certain teams," Uichico told the INQUIRER.

Highly dependent

Uichico explained that their strategy is highly dependent on the strength and weaknesses of the enemy.

Uichico said: "We normally design an offensive attack that suit our needs either against bigger or quicker teams."

"Opposite big teams, we rely heavily on our shooting in the perimeter. But if they're taller and quicker just like the Chinese, we'll just have to find a way to outshoot them," he added.

His coaching instinct, Uichico said, would guide the team in situations like those, especially in circumstances that requires his ability to immediately make a decisive move, win or lose.

Weigh the options

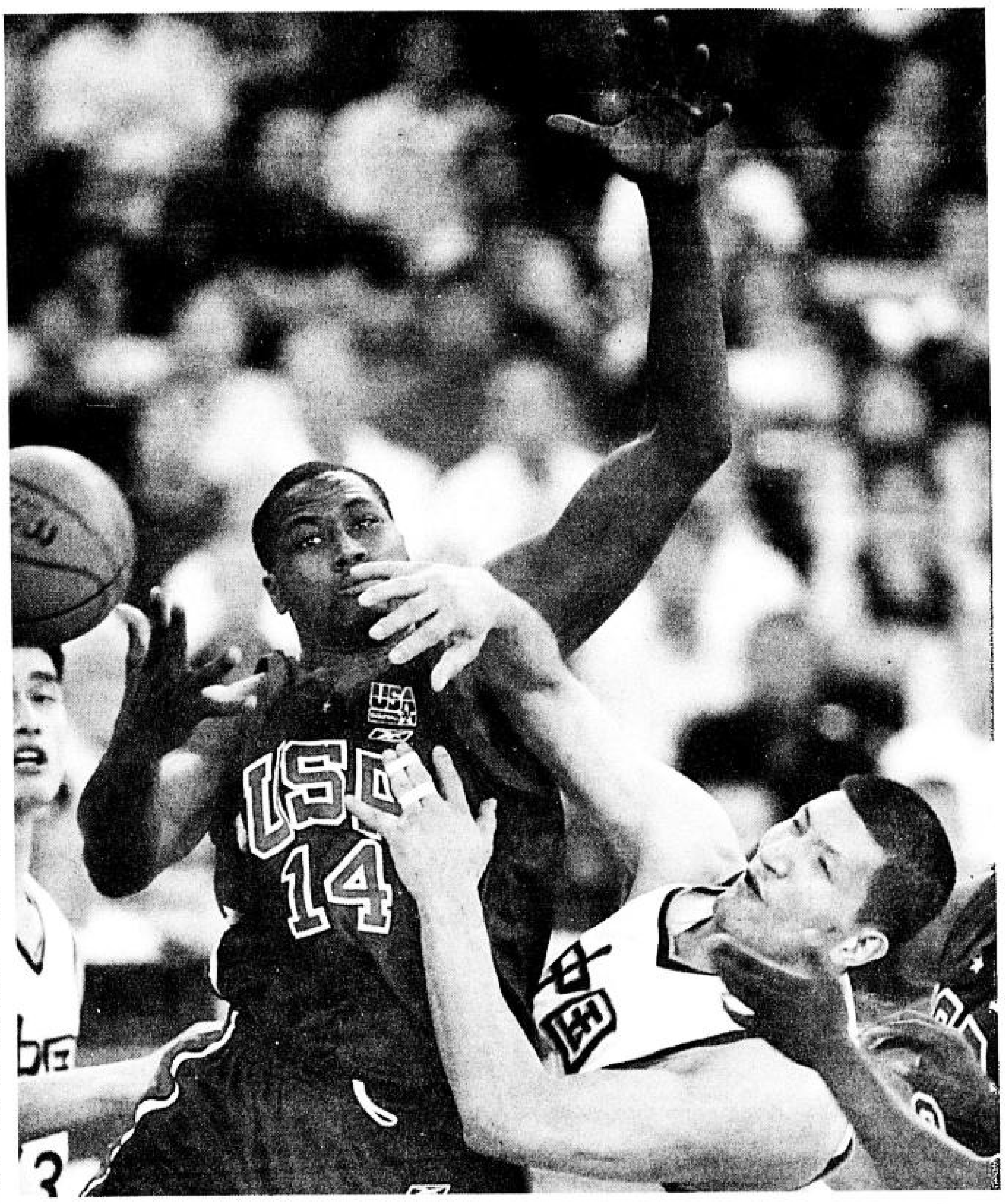
As they say, there are plenty of ways on how to skin a cat but Uichico pointed out that the best way is to weigh the options first and "decide which way you want to go."

"At least you made the decision because it's very difficult when you're caught in between and the players don't know what to do," said Uichico.

The San Miguel Beer coach also took the advice of Tigers' coach Lindsay Gaze to heart, repeating the mantra of the legendary Australian coach that building a national team doesn't come overnight.

"Coach Gaze told us that we're pressuring ourselves in trying to turn things around for the team. It's impossible, he said, when we only have a year to prepare," said Uichico, whose Nationals began their training in January.

"I believe him (Gaze) so we'll just do what's best for the team."



ELTON Brand (left) of the US fights for the rebound with Menke Batere of China during their preliminary round game in the 2002 Men's Fiba World Basketball Championships at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. The US won, 84-65. AFP

US team shows vulnerability

By Chris Sheridan
AP Basketball Writer

GAMES TODAY
US vs Russia
(RPN 9 7-9 p.m.)
Puerto Rico vs Yugoslavia
(Solar 1-3 p.m./9-11 p.m.)

INDIANAPOLIS—The United States has been good at the World Championships.

Not great. Good.

Good has been good enough during the first three days of Earth's biggest basketball tournament. The World's Only Remaining Basketball Superpower is 3-0, having clobbered Algeria before struggling somewhat against Germany and China.

Things get tougher from here.

The World Championships, the tournament that transfixes Europe and South America, resume Monday with the beginning of the second round.

The Americans' schedule looks easy:

— Monday: Annihilation of Russia.

— Tuesday: Eat Kiwis.

— Wednesday: Don't cry, it's only Argentina.

"We don't even expect to win that game. There are more important games for us, like Germany and China," Argentina forward Emanuel Ginobili said.

Do not believe Ginobili. When he says the game against the U.S. team is not important, he is merely being overly respectful.

The international basketball community has learned a lesson from Vlade Divac, who was honest yet bold enough to pronounce the Americans beatable. After watching the Americans in action for the first three days of the tournament, any neutral observer would have to agree.

The U.S. team has showed itself to be flawed.

With Reggie Miller sidelined by a sprained ankle, there has been no perimeter presence outside of Paul Pierce and Michael Finley. Baron Davis and Andre Miller have been all too ordinary at point guard. *AP*

Nothing's impossible

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT'S a commitment.

And that's all there is to it?

Of course, not.

The PBA has said more than a decade or so ago that the Asian Games will be in its priorities. It began in 1986. And in four stints, its worst finish was fourth. Twice.

You call that bad?

Me thinks no.

Fourth in 1986 in Seoul wasn't that bad. Second in 1990 behind powerhouse China in Beijing was good enough.

Fourth in 1994 in Hiroshima wasn't that bad.

Third in 1998 in Bangkok was fairly a good finish.

The Asiad has become a non-picnic event in world sports. Whereas before we practically toyed with the basketball opposition, it is not so now.

The level of competition has changed dramatically, if not tremendously.

The disintegration of the Soviet Republics has sent such countries like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan hurtling towards us. They now form the central part of Asia. And did we not get past Kazakhstan but barely in Bangkok in 1998 (73-68), thanks mainly to the heroics of Jojo Lastimosa?

Coach Tim Cone was in near tears outside the gymnasium right after the bronze victory when I found him by his lonesome.

No, he didn't want to face his boys, all huddled in the dugout. Not even the sportswriters. He was consumed by emotion. He looked like he had just escaped the hangman's noose.

Groping for words when we finally cornered him, his voice cracking, I tried my bit of consolation by telling Tim, ``C'mon, Tim, give me a hug."

He did.

That was one of the most poignant scenes ever dished out in the 1998 Asiad.

Now if I'll do that again in Busan, I hope it's for another reason: We finish second behind China, if not upset China in the finals.

Nothing's impossible.

We were sixth in 1966 when we should have been champions for the fifth straight time in the quadrennial Games.

We were first in 1951 in New Delhi, first in 1954 in Manila, first in 1958 in Tokyo, first in 1962 in Jakarta.

You know why we placed sixth in 1966 in Bangkok?

Caloy Loyzaga wasn't with the team anymore after playing in four Asian Games from 1951 to 1962.

OK, you want more history?

The members of that ill-fated team that placed sixth in the 1966 Bangkok Asiad were Roberto Callebro, Danilo Florencio, Robert Jaworski, Guillermo Manotoc, Jimmy Mariano, Alfonso Marquez, Roehl Nadurata, Edgardo Ocampo, Adriano Papa Jr., Renato Reyes Jr., Alberto Reynoso and Joaquin Roxas. Fely Fajardo was the coach.

First, second, in Busan?

My lips are sealed.

Canare leads World Cup nat'l finals

ASIAN Games-bound bowler Jojo Canare rolled a 10-game series of 1817 pinfalls Sunday at Edsa Lanes to tow 27 other lady pintopplers into the second round of the ongoing World Cup national finals.

A big game of 230 in the third helped the veteran Canare open a 17-pin lead over fellow national player Irene Benitez, who carded 1801.

Defending champion Liza del Rosario, who created a big stir last year by finishing a close second in the international finals in Thailand, had a rough start and managed to check in only third with 1780.

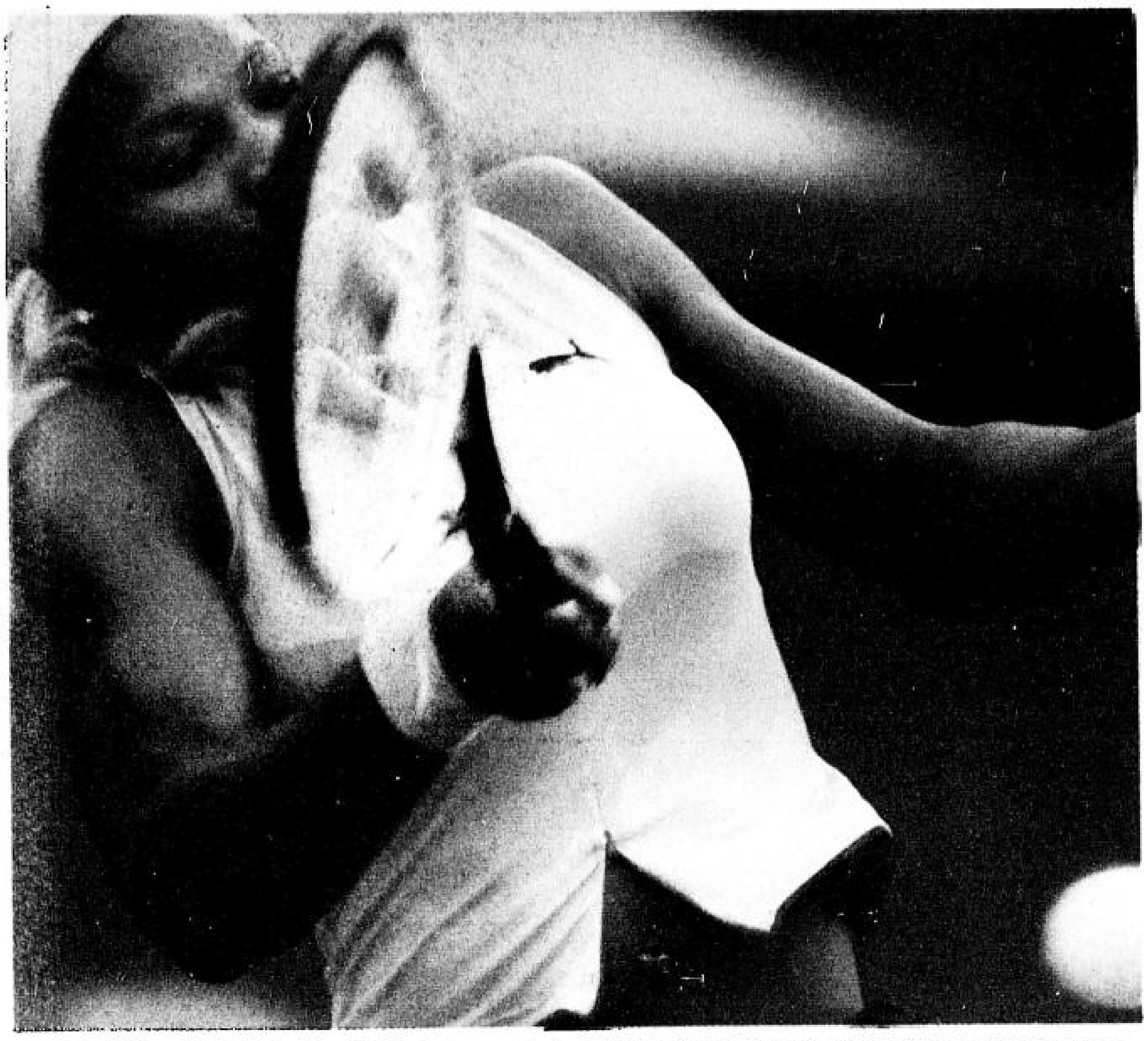
The other bowlers who will roll another 10 games tomorrow at SM Megamall to determine the top eight who will dispute the right to represent the Philippines in the international finals in Riga, Latvia next month are:

Baby David, 1736; Ellen Ramos, 1725; Eve Lombos, 1720; Eden Guadana, 1690; Vilma Fabros, 1690; Lovella Catalan, 1672; Cecille Cuesta, 1631; Ching Amante, 1617; Marie Garma, 1616; Jane Alvarez, 1606; Grace Sales, 1603; Abby Gan, 1596; Apple Castillo, 1594; Carmen Talosig, 1580; Isabel Sainz, 1576; Jho Balanay, 1562; Lita de Jesus, 1544; Rory Villena, 1531; Becky Remirez, 1531; tina Veranga, 1519; Elaine Florencio, 1513; Avic Villarama, 1511; Ellen Salandanan, 1501; and Eva Tuazon, 1500.

The first round of the men's finals was being played at presstime yesterday.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1986, Tanduay Rhum beat Ginebra San Miguel, 93-92, to win the Philippine Basketball Association All-Filipino crown at the Ultra.



WILLIAMS hits a forehand to Czech Daja Bedanova during their fourth round match at the US Open. Williams won, 6-1, 6-1. AFP

Serena wins; stalker in jail

By Howard Fendrick

NEW YORK — As usual, nothing fazed Serena Williams on court. With a man who's tracked her around the globe for a year sitting in a jail cell less than 10 miles (15 kms) away, Williams waited out a long rain delay Sunday and then eased into the US Open quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Daja Bedanova.

The only match completed in a short break from Sunday's downpours was the 18th straight Grand Slam match victory for the top-seeded Williams, who beat older sister Venus in the finals at Wimbledon and the French Open.

The same German man accused of following Williams at those two tournaments, and others in Germany and Italy, was arrested early Saturday at the National Tennis Center after police spotted him watching through a fence while she played.

Albrecht Stromeyer, 34, will remain in custody at Rikers Island until a court appearance on Thursday unless he posts $3,000 bail, corrections department spokesman Tom Antenen said Sunday. Stromeyer admitted in a written statement to police that he had been following Williams around the world.

"The bail is so low, I think that encourages him to keep doing what he's doing," Williams' father, Richard, said. "It makes me wonder, 'Could he hurt Serena?'"

Worried

He also wondered whether his daughter is as worried as she should be.

"This guy could have got in and hurt Serena," Richard Williams said. "I don't think Serena takes it seriously enough."

She has been traveling with a bodyguard since May, and tournament officials have been given photos of Stromeyer so police can spot him.

"The WTA could do a little bit more, but I don't know too much more that they can do because, you have to remember, tennis is not set up like baseball and football. The players go outside to practice and with those sports they can practice inside the stadium and travel underground, where tennis is not" like that, Richard Williams said. "But I hope that it will help the WTA to take a good look at it."

Williams snapped photographs from the stands while he watched his daughter play her fourth-round match against the 20th-seeded Bedanova. Rain delayed the start of play from 11 a.m. to a little after 5:30 p.m., and theirs was the only match finished by the time new showers suspended action at about 7 p.m (2300 GMT Sunday). So people paying a minimum of $48 per ticket got to see 42 minutes of tennis.

If just one match is completed in a session, according to the Open's policy, no credits for tickets to next year's tournament need to be given.

Washed out

At 9:50 p.m. (0150 GMT Monday), play was called off for the night, with matches involving Lindsay Davenport and Andy Roddick washed out completely. Among matches halted in progress: Four-time Open champion Pete Sampras was trailing 1997 finalist Greg Rusedski 5-4, on serve in the first set; No. 3 Tommy Haas won the first set 6-4 against No. 29 Thomas Enqvist; Gustavo Kuerten won the first set 6-1 against Nicolas Massu; and 11th-seeded Daniela Hantuchova led No. 8 Justine Henin 6-1, 1-2.

The last time an entire day at the Open was rained out was Sept. 4, 1988.

Williams won her first service game at love with the help of three straight aces and needed just 18 minutes to win the first set. She finished with eight aces.

"I've been really, really working on my serve," Williams said. "Once I serve well, my whole game goes up."

Bedanova, a quarterfinalist in the 2001 Open, made things easier for Williams by double faulting on break point in the first and fifth games of the match.

All told, Williams nearly had a winner per minute. She hit 35 winners total — including 16 forehands and eight backhands — and had just five unforced errors.

"Well, just my luck, I got out here around 9, because I like to practice two hours before the match," she said. "I was thinking, 'Yes, 11, I could be done by 12, have the rest of the day.' Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way."

'The WTA could do a little bit more, but I don't know too much more that they can do because, you have to remember, tennis is not set up like baseball and football.'

She didn't talk about Stromeyer after the match, with WTA Tour spokesman John Dolan preceding her news conference by saying: "Serena will not be addressing any questions related to the stalker incidents due to legal and security reasons."

But in the past, she's said she doesn't let him bother her.

Strong person

"I don't really pay any attention to anything like that," she said during Wimbledon, where police arrested him. "But I don't see how it could affect my game, him being arrested. I'm a strong person. I try not to let things like that affect me."

Players' safety became a major concern for the WTA Tour after Monica Seles was stabbed during a match in Germany in 1993.

In April 2001, a man convicted of stalking former No. 1-ranked player Martina Hingis was sentenced to two years in jail.

"Our players are not just athletes. They're so interesting off the court, and we have to be aware of how popular they're becoming," WTA Tour CEO Kevin Wulff said. "We have a security company that evaluates the situation for us. We have to update it tournament by tournament, month by month, year by year."

There was a brief security scare Sunday, when an unattended backpack was found in a garbage pail outside a gate at the National Tennis Center, causing police to move fans from a concession area. Bomb disposal experts checked the bag and found it to be harmless. *AP*

Williams' father: Serena's not taking German punk seriously

WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—Serena Williams' father says the top-ranked tennis player isn't as worried as she should be about the man who's been tracking her around the world.

"I'm extremely concerned," Richard Williams said Sunday at the U.S. Open. "It's getting worse."

Albrecht Stromeyer, a 34-year-old German, was arrested early Saturday morning at the National Tennis Center and will remain in custody until a Thursday court appearance unless he posts $3,000 bail, corrections department spokesman Tom Antenen said.

"The bail is so low, I think that encourages him to keep doing what he's doing," Richard Williams said. "It makes me wonder, 'Could he hurt Serena?'"

Bodyguard

Serena Williams has been traveling with a bodyguard since May.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service filed a detainer against Stromeyer, meaning he would be taken into federal custody if he were released on bail, Antenen said Sunday.

Stromeyer was arrested and charged with two counts of stalking after police spotted him watching through a fence as Williams, the reigning Wimbledon and French Open champion, played her third-round match against Nathalie Dechy. Officer Michael Esposito recognized Stromeyer from a photo given to police by Williams' manager.

"This guy could have got in and hurt Serena," Richard Williams said. "I don't think Serena takes it seriously enough. She's 20 years old. As a father, it really concerns me."

Stromeyer admitted in a written statement to police that he had been following Serena Williams around the world. He was arrested outside the gates of Wimbledon in July after scuffling with police and told the officers he loves her and would never hurt her.

"I don't really pay any attention to anything like that," she said at the time. "But I don't see how it could affect my game, him being arrested. I'm a strong person. I try not to let things like that affect me."

Indecent exposure

In May, Stromeyer was ordered to leave Italy after police at the Italian Open received word of his history of harassing Williams. Two months earlier, Stromeyer walked into an Arizona hotel-resort where Serena Williams was playing and asked to see her. When he was turned down, Stromeyer began undressing in front of the desk clerk. He was charged with disorderly conduct and indecent exposure.

Williams' mother, Oracene, also reported seeing Stromeyer at a Berlin tournament in May and at the French Open in June.

Stromeyer, who lives with his parents in Frankfurt and whose mother is a psychiatrist, allegedly has tried to contact Williams by phone and e-mail several times. He faces a $1,000 fine and up to a year in prison if convicted of the stalking charges.

Arraigned

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown had requested $50,000 bail for Stromeyer when he was arraigned at Queens Criminal Court Saturday night, Clark said. Judge Lenore Gerald set bail at $3,000.

"The judge felt that this amount of money was the appropriate amount that reflects the nature of the charge," Clark said.

At the request of prosecutors, Gerald granted an order of protection that forbids Stromeyer from coming near Williams, the Women's Tennis Association and the U.S. Tennis Association.

During Wimbledon, Serena said: "I do have my own security here because the more famous you get, the worse it gets. I just try to take extra precautions because I like living." *AP*

Speedway set Sept. 11

THE 1st Annual Connecticut Speedway Triple Crown will be held on Sept. 11 at the Famous Mike's in Libis. A

The three-race series, held in different popular venues, will feature the new craze of "Yuppies," the Micro Radio Controlled Car Racing.

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Those who want to see highly detailed R/C cars in exciting action, stop by Famous Mike's on Sept. 11, for the kickoff event. Round 2 and 3 will be on Sept. 25 and Oct. 9, respectively, (venues to be announced).

For more details, log on to www.CONNECTICUTSPEEDWAY.com, the Home of Micro Motorsports, or call 0917-8954591 or 0917-5343649.

BELGIAN GRAND PRIX

Schu captures record 10th in one season

By Jan Sliva

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium—Five-time Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher drove his Ferrari to an unprecedented 10th victory in one season Sunday, winning the Belgian Grand Prix on his favorite Spa-Francorchamps circuit.

Schumacher roared out from the pole position and, setting one lap record after another, he never looked back as he completed the 44-lap race on the scenic 6.963-kilometer (4.327-mile) track in one hour, 21 minutes, 20.634 seconds.

"It very much looked like the perfect race," said Schumacher. "I was just enjoying myself, drove for fun this afternoon."

Brazil's Rubens Barrichello, driving in a backup car, finished second, almost two seconds adrift after Schumacher eased off in the final lap, while BWM-Williams' Colombian driver Juan Pablo Montoya crossed the line third, nearly 20 seconds behind.

Ferrari dominance

Barrichello cemented second place in the drivers' championship with 51 points, underlying Ferrari's dominance this season. Montoya added four championship points for a total of 44 and maintained contact with the Brazilian in the standings.

"I was on different tires than Michael this time," said Barrichello. "It was a wrong choice, but I'm still happy with my performance. I had no chance to catch him today."

Schumacher's triumph brought him a record sixth win on the track, beating the previous best tally he held with Ayrton Senna. It was also the 50th race in succession a Ferrari driver has been on the podium, continuing an incredible sequence that began back in Malaysia in 1999.

"We hadn't really expected anything like that," said Schumacher after Ferrari's second consecutive crushing 1-2 finish. "We managed a very good start and we were able to drive our own pace."

David Coulthard secured fourth place for McLaren Mercedes in the eventful race, a disappointment for the team that dominated practice here and was expected to do better.

Younger brother

Schumacher's younger brother Ralf in the other BMW-Williams finished fifth.

Barrichello, third on the grid, beat McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen to the first curve to move into second place right after the start.

"It was clear to me how quick Kimi could go, so obviously overtaking him at the start (made things) a lot easier," Barrichello said.

The young Finn had claimed the first front row start of his career, but his hopes of a maiden Grand Prix win received a further blow on the second lap as he was overtaken by Montoya to slip into fourth.

Michael Schumacher was lapping around two seconds faster than all of his rivals apart from Barrichello as he built up a lead over the Brazilian of more than seven seconds by the end of lap 10.

The German made his first pit stop on lap 16, and was followed by his teammate in the next lap.

Meanwhile, Ralf Schumacher spun out in the tricky "Bus stop" chicane after making a braking mistake. He managed to get back to the track but dropped two spots to eighth.

With the second series of pit stops completed, there were no changes at front with Michael Schumacher leading Barrichello by 17 seconds and Montoya trailing almost 50 seconds behind.

But Raikkonen's engine blew up on lap 36, leaving the Finn hopeless on the sidelines.

Engine failure

"Not the ideal way to end the weekend," said Raikkonen. "At the start I couldn't hold back Rubens. On lap 36 I had an engine failure and that was the end of the race for me.

"I enjoyed starting from the front row but ideally I would've liked to stay there."

Italy's Jarno Trulli, driving in sixth position for the entire race, joined the retirement list soon after, followed by Jordan's Gianfranco Fisichella, whose engine blew in spectacular hot fire on lap 39.

And the engine of BAR-Honda' Olivier Panis also caught fire on the same lap, forcing the Frenchman to abandon the race.

Michael Schumacher now hold records for most Grand Prix wins (63), most victories in one season (10) and most championship points (923).

Sunday's win on the track where he made his Formula One debut in 1991 and won his first race a year later leaves the German ace with only one milestone to reach — a sixth drivers' title. That would surpass even the Argentine Formula One legend Juan Manuel Fangio, who won five titles from 1951-'57. *AP*

WORLD Champion Schumacher drinks champagne as he celebrates victory at the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix in Spain. REUTERS

Ebuen pingpong champion

NATIONAL team stalwart Ernesto Ebuen defeated teammates Joseph Cruz and Richard Gonzales en route to winning the 2nd Tatap regional table tennis circuit recently in Naga City.

Ebuen turned back Cruz, 3-1, and Gonzales, 3-1, to take the men's singles title in the event held at the Civic Youth Center.

Susan Tayag, also an RP campaigner, ousted Crisanta Abas, 3-1, to take the women's singles gold medal.

Abas won over Jade Jalloren, 3-1, for the silver. Ma. Cecilia Fernandez of Albay copped the bronze medal.

Fidel Cu, honorary president of the Fil-Chi Amateur Athletic Federation of Naga awarded the medals and trophies to the winners along with city councilor John Bongat and Table Tennis Association of the Philippines deputy president Jimmy Ong.

'Ratratan' to feature big shots

STALWARTS of the National Cockers Association will test for the first time their new battlebirds when they collide with United Cockers Association of the Philippines big shots in today's "Ratratan 7-Stag Derby" at Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Derby sponsors are Pagcor, Ninja Gamefowl Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Derby hosts Ramon Mansenares and Muroy Dolorico said more than 70 fights are on tap today. Derby starts at 5 p.m.

The NCA's bets are Gov. Ito Ynares, Boy Jiao, Frank Berin, Rudy Jingco, Ruel Feliciano and Madlambayan Brothers.

Expexted to provide a tough challenge are Ucap's top guns like back-to-back Stagfighter of the Year winner Sonny Lagon, sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, Butch Macasaet, OPMI president Vic Yu, Pol Estrellado, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, Mauro Prieto, former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Pete Rodriguez and Mario Villamor, among others.

Bacolod breeders are also joining the fray: Otic Geroso, Elwin Javelosa, Boyet Medina, Ronilo Besa and Abdon de Castrol.

Next Tuesday and Thursday (Sept. 10 and 12), hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez will host the "Firebird MB 7-Stag Derby." For inquiries, call 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

Ecija cockers give rousing welcome

THE NUEVA Ecija Gamefowl Breeders Association, headed by its OIC Dr. Jose Evangelista, gave a rousing welcome to Univet and Thunderbird Warriors during the recent launch of Bexan XP in Cabanatuan City.

Held at the Plaza Leticia, the event coincided with Negba's general assembly wherein the group's upcoming stag circuit was discussed and Thunderbird, through team coordinator for Northern & Central Luzon Chito Morales, reiterated its commitment of full support to Negba.

Bexan XP brand man, Dr. Ritz Capili led the whole day program which started with a caravan around the city and a stopover at the Nueva Ecija Coliseum & Cockpit Arena.

Delasin reduced as Solheim Cup alternate; Rosales earns $14,000

DOROTHY Joy Delasin's dream of earning a Solheim Cup berth ended in a big disappointment on Sunday when she was not named by United States captain Patty Sheehan as one of two wildcard picks.

The 22-year-old Fil-American, who was No. 11 in the rankings going into the final week of the two-year race for the 10 automatic slots, has been considered a strong candidate for the two captain's choices.

Sheehan went for experience rather than new blood when she picked Kelly Robbins and Pat Hurst.

But Delasin will still join the team as a travelling alternate with the chance of getting into the team in the event either an illness or injury hits any of the regular members.

ROSALES

Sheehan made the much-awaited announcement after the State Farm Classic at The Rail Golf Club in Springfield, Illinois, where Delasin figured in a tie for 44th.

Jenny Rosales came from behind to salvage a tie for 16th.

"I had to tell Dorothy by phone she was not one of the picks and that's probably one of the most difficult parts of being the captain," said Sheehan. "She's (Dorothy) quite a young lady and she's going to have a bright future."

Sheehan actually went against public opinion after an internet survey of the LPGA website showed most of the respondents wanted Delasin on the team.

The Solheim Cup, the female version of the Ryder Cup, is set Sept. 20-22 at the Interlachen Country Club in Edina, Minnesota. Delasin, whose parents are both Filipinos, became eligible to represent the US since she was born in Texas.

In Illinois, Rosales posted one of her career-best rounds as she gunned down nine birdies in a seven-under-par 65 that propelled her to 16th with a 279 aggregate in the State Farm Classic.

Patricia Meunier Lebouc fired a 67-270 to win her first LPGA crown, beating Asians Se Ri Pak and Mi Hyun Kim for the $165,000 champion's prize.

Rosales won $14,025 (about P720,000), barely missing her fifth Top 10 finishes following a last-hole bogey.

She increased her winnings this season to $282,250, with just two legs left in the regular LPGA schedule.

Rosales fired four birdies in the frontnine, then clustered three more from the 15th. Her only other bogey came on the 14th.

Delasin closed out with a 72-285. She won $4,592.

Jong Arcano

DELASIN: Big disappointment.

FILE PHOTO

Tracksters go into last-minute tuneup

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIVE track and field athletes bound for the Asian Games, led by long jumpers Lerma Bulauitan and Maristella Torres, hope to strengthen their Asiad chances in Busan, South Korea, when they compete in the Singapore Open this weekend.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok yesterday said he will personally accompany the athletes in the event which will be the final tuneup for the tracksters.

They hope to erase the stigma of their 1998 Asiad campaign where they went home with only one medal -- a bronze in long jump from Elma Muros.

"She (Elma) won't be around in Busan anymore but I'm very confident that we can surpass that performance because these athletes have the talent and have undergone rigid preparation," said Go, who had a heart-to-heart talk with his wards last Saturday in their Baguio City training camp.

Go said he is pinning his hopes on Bulauitan and Torres, who finished second and third in the recent Asian Championships in Sri Lanka. They lost the gold to Yelena Kochsheyeva of Kazakhstan.

Also leaving for Singapore are Sean Guevarra (high jump), Joebert Delicano (long jump) and Ernie Candelario (400m). Each of them has a strong chance of pulling a surprise in the Busan Games.

"They were all in high spirits when I arrived," said Go, who met all 13 Busan-bound athletes one after the other and discussed their respective records and chances.

Aside from the female long jumpers, Go singled out Eduardo Buenavista as having a "90 percent chance" of winning a gold medal in the 10,000m. He said the 4-foot-11 runner's personal best of 30 minutes and 19 seconds (fashioned out during the Hong Kong King of the Road Challenge last March) is better than the Asian championship gold medal mark of 30:31.

Go added that marathoners Roy Vence, Allan Ballester and Christabel Martes also have strong chances of snaring golds in Busan based on their performances in foreign events held early this year.

"Roy and Allan need to register a time of two hours and 20 minutes to win a medal in marathon. And they can very well achieve it if they are in top shape," said Go. "Christabel's 2:42 mark in Japan is just three seconds off the recent Asian champion."

Also seeing action in Busan are Asian Grand Prix silver medalist John Lozada in 800m and Jimar Aing, Ronnie Marfil and Rodrigo Tanuan in relays.

Buhain 'pep-talks' athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHAIR Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission gave the Asian Games Team a pep talk last weekend in a bid to boost the athletes morale.

He also addressed the concerns of some 400 athletes at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Their meeting, which lasted from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, is apart from the pep rally still being planned, with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo expected to exhort the athletes to give it their best shot in the Asiad.

"We are still trying to set the date of the rally," said Buhain. "But until then I want to be abreast with their concerns especially now that the Asian Games is just around the corner."

He added that competition uniforms, luggages and equipment will be distributed this weekend to more than 200 athletes going to the Sept. 29-Oct. 14 Games.

"We are on schedule as far as providing for the athletes' needs are concerned," said Buhain, who will stay with the athletes for the duration of Asian Games.

During the pep talk with the national pool members, Buhain noted that the athletes have "far less serious concerns" compared to their problems several months ago.

Aside from one athlete seeking for immediate fumigation of the gyms and the athletes' quarters, Buhain said most of the athletes' complaints deal with petty issues like curfew and longer visitation hours.

"Such needs stayed on the back of my mind when I was still an active swimmer, but we will still be taking these concerns seriously," said Buhain of the athletes belonging to the two big athletes groups like the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines and the Philippine Amateur Athletes Federation Inc.

Buhain also promised to put up additional water dispensers and improve the supply of the vitamins and other nutritional requirement.

He added that the construction of the athletes' dorms is already underway, while the athletes lounge is already operational.

PEACE
BELGOSA MEDIA SYSTEMS INC

CEREMONIAL MOVES. Grandmaster Eugene Torre (left) makes the ceremonial moves with Landbank senior vice-president, lawyer Miguel Gonzales, marking the formal launching of the 2002 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2002 recently at the Landbank Plaza in Malate, Manila. Looking on from left are Maria Suzette Relucio of Chess Asia, Peace chief of organizer Manolito Ferrer, Peace event manager Ben Poblete, Emmanuel Hernandez of the Grandmaster Eugenio Torre Chess Institute (GETCI), Peace chief arbiter Einstein Padua, chess author Elmer Sangalang and Active Chess Center of Asia executive director Juanito Calditaran.

Peace chess: Norwegian envoy surprise entry

ENGINEER Robert Arellano bested three-time grand prix topnotcher Jenny Mayor in the last round to emerge champion in elite Success section even as Mohamad Abdul Asis captured the Prosperity section in the third leg of the 2002 Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2002 Saturday at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila.

The third leg saw the participation of His Excellency Paul Moe, Norway's ambassador to the Philippines.

The young Arellano scored 5.5 points in the six-round Swiss system event. His only draw came in the fourth round with Edward Oliver Ang of Star Paper Corporation.

The event is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) with the support of Citibank, Belgosa Media Systems Inc. and Land Bank.

Defending champion Dennis San Juan and Gary Legaspi tied for second-third places with 5 points each. Ricky Navalta of Diwa Learning Systems and Mayor followed with identical 4.5 points.

Rounding up the top ten in the Prosperity section: 1st Abdul Asis, 5 points; 2nd Abraham Dalagan, 4.5; 3rd-8th Jason Manlunas, Chito Lat, Jose Matutino, Ronald Donasco, Ramil Acosta and Gunnar Abelido; 9th-10th Agustus Ata and Lester Bacay, 3.5.

The fourth leg will be held on Sept. 28. Call Acca at tel. 892-8759 for details.

SPORTSWATCH

FEU volleybelles stretch winning streak

FAR Eastern University stretched its winning streak to nine Sunday but Santo Tomas stayed within striking distance in women's volleyball of the 65th University Athletic Association of the Philippines. The Lady Tamaraws repeated over Ateneo, 25-14, 25-15, 25-19, a match they won in 44 minutes and one that kept them ahead of the UST ladies. Santo Tomas continued to tow the field in the men's contest of the competition hosted by the University of the Philippines. The Tigers went up to 8-1, but not after a struggle. They needed an hour and 16 minutes in subduing a stubborn Far Eastern crew, 23-25, 25-18, 25-22, 25-21. The Tamaraws are tied for fourth with a 5-4 card.

Olympic cager Francisco, 70

BENJAMIN S. Francisco, a member of the legendary 1953 team that placed third in the World Basketball Championship in Brazil, passed away last Aug. 30 due to a lingering illness. Francisco, 70, was a teammate of Carlos "The Big Difference" Loyzaga. Their third place finish in 1953 remains unsurpassed. The former National University Bulldog also donned the country's colors in the Asian Games as a member of the national volleyball team after that Brazilian stint. When Francisco retired, he worked for the Philippine Airlines as station manager in various parts of the world. He retired from PAL five years ago. He left behind his wife Felicitas Francisco, the assistant sports director of the University of Santo Tomas, and children Benjamin Jr., Sonny, Genevieve, Aaron, Zoe and Gerard, who plays for Santa Lucia in the Philippine Basketball Association. His body lies at the La Funeraria Paz Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be tomorrow.

MCC non-master kicks off Sept. 8

THE J&F Divino Bldg. plays host to the September edition of the MCC non-master active chess tournament, which kicks off at 10 a.m. on Sept. 8. The one-day event will be held at the 3rd floor of the mini-arcade building situated at No. 967 A. Blvd. beside St. Joseph Church and near Anonas St. in Cubao, Quezon City. Open to all untitled chessplayers, the seven-round Swiss System will be applied in selecting the top four finishers with the champion pocketing the top purse of P4,000. The second, third and fourth placers will receive P2,000; P1,000; and P700 on that order. A special prize of P600 also awaits the top performers of the following categories: 2100 below; 1900 below; unrated; ladies; juniors and kiddies (12 & under). Registration is accepted until Sunday at least before the tournament formally starts. For more details, call MCC at 826-8650 and 0916-852-1069.

AUF completes double celebration

ANGELES CITY-Angeles University Foundation completed a double celebration by beating Holy Angel University in both the collegiate and high school divisions in the 2002 National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (NAASCU) basketball tournament at the AUF gym here. AUF demolished Holy Angel, 109-61, in a lopsided contest to climb into solo third place behind defending champion University of Manila and Pamantasan Ng Lungsod Ng Pasay with three wins in four matches in this eight-team, single-round tournament.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

TENNIS: US Open 2002 at 7 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Europro Tour 2002 at 10:30 a.m. on Star Sports
PGA Air Canada Championship at 2 p.m. on Star Sports
SOCCER: English Premier League at 11:30 a.m. and tomorrow at 2:55 a.m. on ESPN, 12 noon and 6 p.m. on Star Sports
Spanish Football League at 4 p.m. on Star Sports

Victorious in Shanghai, Cabahug boys to US

By Dennis U. Eroa

THEY were awed by the towering Shanghai skyline, but not the presence of Asia's top streetball teams.

Despite being first-timers in international competitions, the Philippines, represented by national champion and Cebuano powerhouse University of Visayas, conquered the 4th adidas Asian Streetball finals Aug.3-Sept. 1 in Shanghai.

"We came to Shanghai with one purpose in mind—win the title. I made it clear to the boys that we're not tourists and we have a mission to fulfill. Of course, watching the city's Shanghai skycrapers gave us a different feeling but on court, it was a different story," said winning coach Elmer "Boy" Cabahug.

The 38-year-old Cabahug wasn't new in playing big-time basketball. He played for 10 years with four different teams in the PBA, before seeking his luck with the Pangasinan Waves in the MBA. Known for his streak shooting, Cabahug was also a former Mandaue City councilor before being tapped by the Gullas family to handle the Green Lancers.

"I believe that by becoming Asian champions, we're also able to show to our neighbors that Philippine basketball is alive and kicking. This honor belongs not just to UV but to the whole country as well. I thank adidas for giving us the chance to show our talent internationally," Cabahug said.

Cabahug's able scouting of the country's rivals paid off handsomely.

Watched by a large, screaming crowd, the team, composed of skipper Joseph Quiñahan, Jayford Rodriguez, Mark Ababon and Morsie Akad tripped three-time titlist Hong Kong, 13-11, in the championship game. The road to the one-game finals was hard as the nationals bowed to Malaysia, 10-9.

But they recovered by downing Indonesia, 22-8, and nipping Korea, 12-11, on Quiñahan's free throw. Next came their 14-3 victory over China A.

"All throughout, my boys displayed veterans' poise," Cabahug said.

The 6-foot-4 Quiñahan, nicknamed Baby Shaq, was a source of strength in the shaded lane, while the 6-foot-2 Rodriguez thrilled the crowd with his slam-dunking prowess.

Ababon, the smallest in the group at 5-foot-9, orchestrated the plays, while the 6-foot-2 Akad, a recruit from Saranggani Province, jostled aggressively against taller and heftier foes for the needed points.

"We knew it was going to be hard, but we weren't afraid," said Quiñahan, a resident of Mandaue. He emerged as MVP when the Green Lancers wrested the national title from defending champions Ateneo de Davao Blue Knights, 15-8, last Aug. 18 at the SM City Cebu.

The triumphant team, who arrived yesterday, hardly had a good rest. They motored direct from the airport to meet the press at the Sidebar restaurant in Malate and fondly relive their exploits exploits before a thrilled, media-dominated crowd.

Cabahug and his wards were ready to answer questions from sportswriters.

Among the welcomers were John Alonte, president and managing director of adidas Philippines, and marketing officer Angelica Suiza.

"This is quite an achievement," said Alonte.

Alonte said the team will go to an all-expense paid trip to the United States and watch live an NBA game of adidas endorser Tracy McGrady of the Orlando Magic.

Cabahug and his team will fly to Cebu City today where they will be feted by sports officials and Visayan scribes.

Quiñahan and Rodriguez said they will now focus their attention in helping the Green Lancers to the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc tournament.

Cabahug, assisted by ex-pro Al Solis, also coaches the UV varsity team.

"I see a bright future for these boys in the sport," Cabahug said. "But they must not also forget their studies. They are still young and lots of unforeseen things can happen."

ADIDAS president and managing director John Alonte (second from right) receives the championship trophy from skipper Joseph Quiñahan. Others in photo are (from left) Morsie Akad, Mark Ababon, Jayford Rodriguez and marketing officer Angelica Suiza. Coach Elmer Cabahug (right) flashes a winning smile.

ROGER CARPIO

BIKE FOR LIFE

Having a child diagnosed with cancer is not just a medical journey --- it is a very difficult and heart-wrenching emotional experience. It is learning to cope with watching your child suffer day in and day out. It is feeling utterly helpless and at times, being overwhelmed -seeing your child in so much pain, battling so many unknowns and unable to provide any definitive answers or solutions. Most heart-wrenching of all are the effects of cancer on the children themselves. At an age of supposed innocence, enjoyment and pure joy, children with cancer are faced with momentous and difficult experiences. Most often, these also come with a lot of real physical pain. Share their stories:

Joy, an 11-year old who fought bone cancer. Who had her leg amputated in the fight. In the end, she succumbed to a new infection before getting a new leg. Her mother spent last Christmas without her.

SEPT 3

Shayne Pitpit, a 9 month old baby girl from Batac, Ilocos Norte. When we first met Shayne, we could not believe our eyes! It was the first time in our lives to see a baby afflicted with the Big C! In my anger, I said: "Ano ba naman ito! pati batang walang kamuang-muang, walang kaalam alam , tinamaan pa ng walang hiyang kanser!"

Russel, a 2 year old bubbly boy from Cavite, one of the many one or no eyed warriors of the Foundation. He was one of of the first retinoblastoma(cancer of the retina of the eye) cases we have supported. Right now, Russel needs a fake eye implant. Having survived the worst, Russel is back to being the most boisterous, pinaka makulit, at pinakamagulong bata in the Cancer Institute.

There are many more Joys, Shaynes and Russels out there. They can beat cancer if we help them. They need your help.

- excerpts from an essay by James Auste, Cancer Warrior

HELP KIDS BEAT CANCER. BE A CANCER WARRIOR.

For donations and inquiries about the "Cancer Warrior Fund" call 551-4588 / 551-1650 or visit www.c-warriors.org. Donate through Metrobank Account Number 007168509240, Cancer Warriors Foundation. For more information on how to fight cancer by early detection, call the Philippine Cancer Society Hotline at 734-2131.

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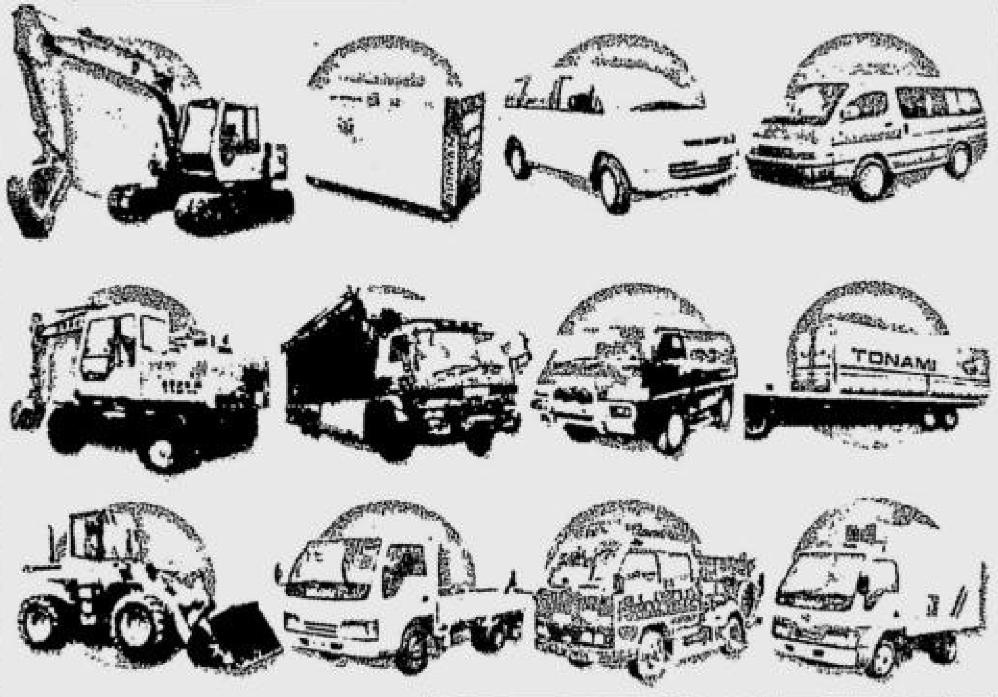

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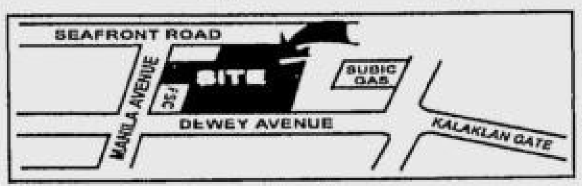

RP 5 downs Japan

GAMES TODAY
1 p.m.—Japan vs S'pore
3 p.m.—RP vs Indonesia
5 p.m.—Thailand vs Malaysia

PHUKET, Thailand—The Philippine national team sent a strong message of its title-aspirations by blasting Japan, 67-51, at the start of the 4th Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) Women's Basketball Championships at the Ta Pan Hin Gymnasium here Sunday.

With the prolific Emelia Vega and Charmaine Salalila doing most of the damage on the offensive end, the Filipinas transformed a 22-26 halftime deficit into a 40-36 lead and never looked back en route to the 16-point win against the Seaba guest team.

"It's a very important victory for us because a loss will be disastrous to our campaign, as there is no longer a championship game. The best team after the single-round elimination will be declared champion," said Cristobal.

Vega, the heart and soul of the Philippine women's team, scored 13 markers while Salalila bulldozed her way for 10.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 7, Cleveland 1; Toronto 7, NY Yankees 6; Chi White Sox 7, Detroit 0; Oakland 7, Minnesota 5; Seattle 9, Kansas City 4; Tampa Bay 8, Texas 3; Anaheim 9, Baltimore 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 4, Cincinnati 2; Philadelphia 9, NY Mets 5; Atlanta 6, Montreal 4; Chicago Cubs 5, St. Louis 4; Los Angeles 2, Houston 1; Florida 8, Pittsburgh 4; San Diego 9, Colorado 5; Arizona 7, San Francisco 6.

AFP

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METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

Wife-friendly ordinance

MANILA Councilor Jhosep Lopez wants the police to implement the nine-year-old City Ordinance No. 7791 which prohibits sex with a prostitute as well as the mere act of soliciting sexual services from one. Many housewives "long for its implementation" even if their husbands get caught, he said. *Jerome Aning*

Tinga: Recall is dead

By Christian V. Esguerra

TINGA

EMBATTLED Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga yesterday warned of violence and breakdown of services if his political foes would proceed with the recall election against him.

"The people will be polarized," Tinga told reporters. "Services will be derailed. Taguig is being sacrificed. In the end, it will be the people who will suffer."

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano is leading forces opposed to Tinga, which are set to file a resolution asking the Commission on Elections to hold a recall election, following Sunday's tension-filled preparatory recall assembly (PRA).

Tinga yesterday dismissed the exercise as a "dead recall," saying Cayetano and his camp failed to get an "obvious and overwhelming" support for their initiative.

"It's legally dead," Tinga said, noting that the planned assembly on Sunday had to be cancelled because there was no quorum.

"(The recall move) won't go anywhere," he added. "So we should just stop all this bickering and concentrate on our work."

Tension gripped the flood-prone town Sunday afternoon when about 200 unruly supporters of Tinga barricaded the IMP Sea Breeze Resort in Barangay Hagonoy to prevent Cayetano's followers in the PRA from holding the assembly there. The PRA is composed of 162 officials and chairs of Taguig's 18 barangays.

Some of Tinga's supporters, armed with wooden clubs, nearly attacked media people who tried to pass through the blockade. Tinga's supporters said Cayetano's men might disguise themselves as reporters or photographers to get in the area.

Later in the afternoon, 84 PRA members held their own assembly outside the resort and approved the recall petition. The assembly needed only 82 affirmative votes before the Comelec petition can be filed.

One of the many issues Tinga's critics raised was his alleged decision to hire about 3,000 casual employees whose monthly salaries have eaten up about P15 million of the Taguig budget. The critics also claimed that several of the casual employees are Tinga's relatives.

"True, we have around 3,000 employees, but they are not ghost employees and not all of them are casual workers," Tinga said. "They include everyone working for the local government, including streetsweepers."

Municipal administrator Wilfredo Villar also clarified that the local government spent only 17 percent of the P15-million budget to pay for the salaries of casual employees.

Tinga said most of his relatives currently working in the town hall had already been working there even before he assumed office last year.

"The records are open," he said. "(Cayetano) may look at them anytime so hopefully he'd stop making all these baseless accusations."

Ople brod's rear-ended car crashes into KFC; 6 injured

By Nelson Flores

TWO successive accidents hit a car driven by a brother of Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople at the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan yesterday afternoon, causing injuries to six people, including the Cabinet official's brother.

Police said that except for Bernardo Ople, 70, all of the injured were customers of the KFC chicken restaurant in the Greenhills complex.

Supt. Rodrigo Degracia, San Juan municipal police chief, said that about 2 p.m., Ople, who was driving an automatic Honda Civic sedan with registration plate number 7, was looking for parking space when wham!, his car was bumped from behind by a BMW.

When Ople alighted from his car to check on the damage to his car, the BMW sped away, police said.

Ople returned to the wheel of his car, but he accidentally stepped on the gas pedal, causing the car to crash into the restaurant, police said.

Police identified the other injured as Ellen Magsumbol, Dennis Magsumbol, Mel Manuel, Francisco Abadilla and Augusto Jose. They were treated at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

DRIVE-THROUGH. Workers cover the KFC wall rammed by Ople's car.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Markets asked to waive vendors' ₱20,000 'goodwill' fee

By Leila B. Salaverria and Volt Contreras

TO ENTICE sidewalk vendors to sell inside markets, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando has urged market owners to abolish the prohibitive "goodwill" fee of as much as P20,000 for the rights to a market stall.

The Department of Social Welfare will also start offering loans of P5,000 each within the next two weeks to vendors displaced by the crackdown on pirated audio and video tapes and the MMDA's sidewalk clearing operations.

The loans are part of the DSWD's microfinancing program, also known as Self-Employment Assistance - Kaunlaran (SEA-K).

"I asked the market owners to let the vendors inside the markets even without the goodwill fee, even if the owners have to raise the rent for space just a little," Fernando said in his weekly news conference.

He said the rent was as low as P20 per stall.

In a Quezon City news conference, Social Welfare Sec. Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said the loans are free from collateral.

She said the grant of the loan carries with it an understanding between the vendors and the DSWD that the merchants will no longer return to illegal operations.

Mass deportation of Pinoys an act of self defense

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

I KNOW I will incur the ire of our compatriots who were deported from Malaysia, for writing this piece.

But I don't care because I think am writing on the side of truth.

I sympathize with those who suffered inside detention centers during the roundup in Malaysia. My sympathies go especially to those whose children died during the mass deportation from Malaysia.

***

But let's also look at the other side and be very objective about it.

Malaysia is justified in deporting Filipino illegal immigrants from Sabah. The Malaysian government is doing so in self-defense.

There are hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, mostly undocumented, who have migrated to Malaysia. They are a big headache to the Malaysian government.

***

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah's capital, there's a huge Filipino community near the piers. It's a no-man's-land to Sabah's locals.

The ghetto is a high-crime area. Drug smugglers, gun smugglers, drug pushers, murderers, robbers, thieves and prostitutes abound in the area. Most of these lowlifes are fugitives from justice from the Philippines.

Why do I know this?

***

A few years ago, I was a member of an unofficial trade mission to Malaysia headed by Lepeng Wee, presidential consultant for Mindanao economic affairs.

I asked after the Filipino community in Kota Kinabalu from some of our hosts, mostly government officials. Some of them were gracious enough to keep quiet. Others, however, were frank.

One of them told me: "Filipinos here are either prostitutes or criminals. Most of them take advantage of being Muslims like us."

Of course, I was shocked but held my peace. After all, I was their guest.

***

I learned from that frank host that Filipinos in the ghetto close ranks when they have a brush with the law. This outspoken host said that when a bag snatcher, for example, would run to the ghetto, a policeman chasing him would stop outside the ghetto for fear of being ganged upon by its inhabitants.

Policemen would only enter the ghetto when they're in a big group looking for criminals, he said.

As he was telling me the problem posed by Filipinos in Sabah, I was reminded of the Islamic Center in Quiapo, Manila. A cop would not enter the Islamic Center alone if he is not a Muslim resident of the Center. He would be courting disaster if he did so. Several policemen were killed chasing Muslim crime offenders who had sought refuge inside the two-and-a-half-hectare enclave.

The Islamic Center in Quiapo is a high crime area.

***

President Macapagal-Arroyo should be warned that she has a Trojan horse inside her Cabinet in her anti-smuggling campaign.

My sources in the rice business say that this official is using his position to monopolize the importation of rice from Vietnam, Thailand and India. He is using a farmers group to lobby for rice import quota, the sources say.

This farmers group doesn't know it's being used, according to my sources.

***

The official's game plan is to have rice smugglers import the commodity using the old system of recycling their import permits, the sources say.

The importation permit or quota, which is good only for a one-shot deal, will be used over and over again, the sources say.

Hint on the identity of this official: he once headed a family corporation that went bankrupt.

***

Director General Hermogenes "Jun" Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief, has promised to lick the kidnapping problem before the end of the year.

Ebdane is more a doer than a talker. So when he makes a promise, you'd better believe it.

He's proved himself the past couple of weeks smashing one kidnapping gang after another.

***

Unlike one of his predecessors who was eyeing a national position, Ebdane doesn't have a political agenda.

Jun Ebdane doesn't look at the kidnapping problem as a chance to show off his worth. He looks at it from the point of view of a law enforcer who was given a deadline.

Ebdane, according to those who know him, is an officer who is "mission-accomplished" oriented.

***

Erap's lawyers are taking advantage of an order disallowing the live TV broadcast of his plunder trial.

The prosecution camp claims that Erap's lawyers are giving false information to the public about what transpired at the trial.

For example, prosecution lawyers said, Raymund Fortun, Erap's spokesman and counsel, claimed that Luis "Chavit" Singson was inconsistent in his testimony about where he delivered the jueteng money to Erap.

***

Fortun said that Singson denied he delivered the money at Polk Street in Greenhills, an alleged contradiction to his earlier testimony.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo said this was another effort on the part of Fortun to mislead the public.

What Singson said, according to prosecution lawyers, was that after Erap took up residence at the Palace, the jueteng money was delivered to Malacañang and no longer at his Polk Street residence. Erap took several months to transfer to Malacañang after being elected president.

Policeman convicted

By Agnes E. Donato

A DISMISSED police major, who has a pending case of kidnapping for ransom, yesterday was convicted of illegal possession of firearms.

Rodolfo Magleo, a former chief inspector assigned to the Philippine National Police Narcotics Command, was sentenced to six years in prison and fined P30,000 by Judge Hilario Laqui of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 218.

Magleo was dismissed from the service in January 2000 "for serious neglect of duty" after he went absent without official leave (AWOL) starting March 1999.

Magleo's other case, the kidnapping of veterinarian Nino Lorenzo Tobiano, is still being heard in a Malabon court.

Records showed that Magleo was arrested on Aug. 10, 2001 for the alleged kidnapping. The two policemen who arrested him saw a .45 pistol placed between the hand brake and the driver's seat in Magleo's car.

Magleo was brought to the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame and was later charged with illegal possession of firearms and kidnapping.

In his defense, Magleo claimed that he was still a PNP member at the time of his arrest, as he had not received a notice of dismissal.

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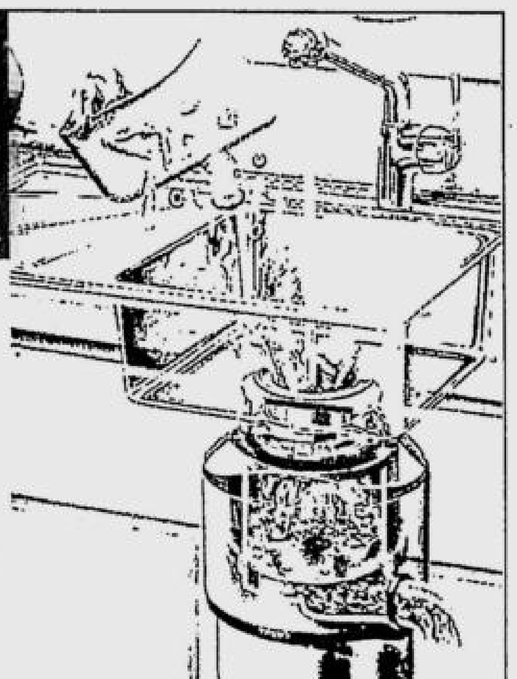
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4	SIGNS
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6	DERAILED
7	
8	

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2	
3	

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3	GAMITAN
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3	JOLOGS
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9	BIGLANG LIKO

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5 SDDS	TRIPLE X
6 (DTS)	JOLOGS
7 DOLBY	SIGNS
8	AUSTIN POWER-3

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2	AUTIN POWER-3
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
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1	JOLOGS
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3	TRIPLE X

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1 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
2	TRIPLE X
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2

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2	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AUSTIN POWER
4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
6	UNFAITHFUL
7	DERAILED

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2	DERAILED

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2	JOLOGS
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1	JOLOGS
2 (DTS)	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
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3 (DTS)	SPIRIT
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3	TRIPLE X
4	

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2	JOLOGS
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4 (DTS)	INSOMNIA

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2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X

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2	SEX & ZEN
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS

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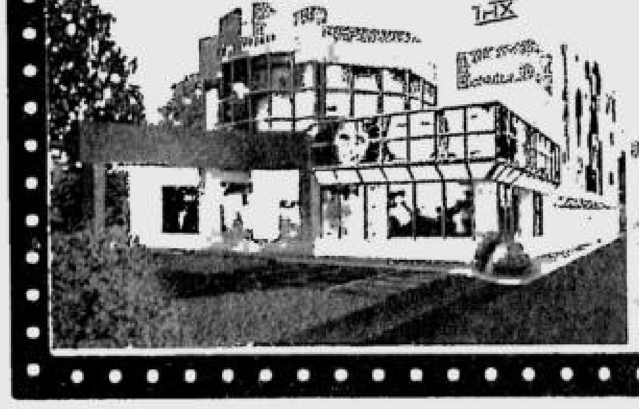

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5	DERAILED
6	JOLOGS
7	GAMITAN
8	UNFAITHFUL

SM CENTERPOINT
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1	JOLOGS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	SIGNS
4	SPIRIT
5	TRIPLE X
6	GAMITAN
7	DERAILED
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY
9	AUSTIN POWERS...
10	JOLOGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	GAMITAN
2	SPIRIT
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SIGNS
5	TRIPLE X
6	JOLOGS
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	DERAILED
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	KILLING ME SOFTLY
11	SWEETEST THING
12	JOLOGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	INSOMNIA
4	SIGNS
5	DERAILED
6	TRIPLE X
7	SPIRIT
8	UNFAITHFUL
9	JOLOGS
10	GAMITAN
11	SWEETEST THING
12	JOLOGS

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1	SIGNS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	SIGNS
4	TRIPLE X
5	DERAILED
6	UNFAITHFUL
7	GAMITAN
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	LILO & STITCH
11	JOLOGS
12	SPIRIT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	DERAILED
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS
5	AUSTIN POWERS
6	SIGNS
7	SPIRIT
8	TRIPLE X

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1	SPIRIT
2	DERAILED
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	SIGNS
5	INSOMNIA
6	LILO & STITCH
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X
9	GAMITAN
10	UNFAITHFUL

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	TRIPLE X
2	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3	LILO & STITCH
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	SPIRIT

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	GAMITAN
2	CLOSED
3	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X
5	JOLOGS
6	POWERPUFF GIRLS
7	CLOSED
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	SIGNS
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	SPIRIT
4	GAMITAN
5	TRIPLE X
6	JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	GAMITAN
2	SIGNS
3	JOLOGS
4	TRIPLE X

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SIGNS
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	TRIPLE X
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	SPIRIT

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3	SIGNS
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6	TRIPLE X
7	GAMITAN
8	DERAILED
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	LILO & STITCH

Ermita
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1	SIGNS
2	TRIPLE X
3	GAMITAN
4	DERAILED
5	JOLOGS
6	SPIRIT
7	AUSTIN POWERS

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1	TRIPLE X
2	SPIRIT
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	DERAILED
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN
7	SIGNS
8	JOLOGS

Novaliches
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1	TRIPLE X
2	SPIRIT
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	DERAILED
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN
7	SIGNS
8	JOLOGS

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	TRIPLE X
2	SPIRIT
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	SIGNS
5	GAMITAN
6	JOLOGS

Bacolod
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1	THE SWEETEST THING
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	THE THIRD WHEEL

Iloilo
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2	TRIPLE X
3	SPIRIT
4	POWER PUFF GIRLS
5	JOLOGS
6	ORANGE COUNTY

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When will EPs stop playing tricks on stars?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I HAD a long engaging talk with a well-respected broadcast journalist. We echo the same sentiments regarding the ills of the system that runs a network.

The problem is so ingrained that most people within the network are immune to it already. They just go about their usual routine, devoid of any aspirations to achieve more. But learned helplessness can be unlearned or can't you really teach an old dog some new tricks—tricks such as fresh TV show concepts instead of just being a poor copycat of your rival's programs.

And what about the magic of new and more deserving talents than the overexposed and over-paid stars who believe their own hype?

When will the executive producers stop playing their tricks on the stars of a show?

As it is, if you are not exactly chummy with your E.P. (executive producer), then the chances of your name even being mentioned in the bigwig's meetings are zilch.

What ever happened to being recognized on your own merits? As one TV host told me, "Sometimes you just have to make trumpets sound. If you know you are qualified then demand for what you deserve."

Quite an emboldening thought but must we really try too hard? There's a certain kind of satisfaction you get when breaks that are due you come your way without having to hanker for it.

Why do you think there's an endless rigodon of stars from one network to another?

Take it from one young icon. "They sign you up for five pictures and pay you in full, but you end up doing only two films.

What good is the money if you don't have exposure, anyway?"

It's not that we are into sourgraping here. But neither is sweet success anywhere on the menu at the rate the system is going.

At the rate the ratings are falling, we are more sad than hurt by the sorry state of things. There must be a way out of this maze. Change is good. Who goes first?

Just asking

MANY viewers are noticing the uncanny resemblance of **Bobby Yan** to his late brother **Rico** (Yan). Not just in looks but in the way he dresses up and moves.

Fans are wondering if this is a conscious effort on Bobby's part or is it because the longer Rico is gone, the more he's missed that's why fans can't help but see him in Bobby?

A friend spotted ex-lovers Geneva **Cruz** and **KC Montero** as a coosometwosome at Rockstar in Libis recently. Are they back in each other's arms or did they just get carried away by yet another cold lonely night?

I was impressed by **John Pratts'** superb acting skills in "Jologs." And he is also adorably cute on the big screen. Without intending to, he upstaged all the other stars in the movie.

PRATTS

John ought to be given a launching movie soon. Could he be the next Christopher de Leon?

Baron Geisler was also quite convincing as a gay student and **Vhong Navarro** shows promise of being a poker-face type of comedian.

For the sake of art

ALLIANCE Francaise de Manille presents "Elemento," an exhibit of musical sculpture and installation.

"Elemento" is composed of **Lirio Salvador, Herald Corpus, Kris Deuda, Andre Lorimer, Gilbert Sanchez** and **Kaloy Olavides**. The group's musical instruments are sculptured pieces made out of industrial debris, scrap metal and found objects.

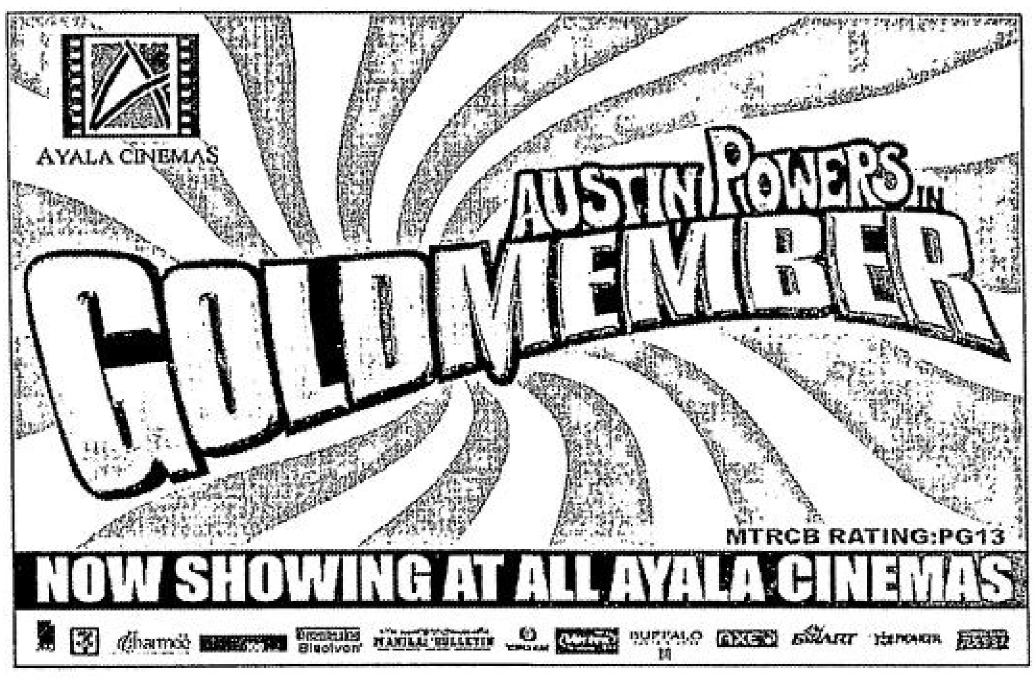
Elemento describes their work as "an act of spontaneous creation, building something out of nothing, shaping form out of chaos."

Exhibition runs until Sept. 27, Mondays to Saturdays. For more information, call 895-7585 or 895-7441

Personal

HAPPY birthday to my better version. . .mi hija Bianchi!!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare-@yahoo.com



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MTRCB RATING:PG13
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1:30 RING 2	1:30 RING 1
3:30 RING O	3:30 RING 2
6:30 RING 1	6:30 RING O
8:30 RING 2	8:30 RING 1
10:30 RING O	10:30 RING 2

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
AYALA CINEMAS

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Sept. 4, 2002
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– Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times
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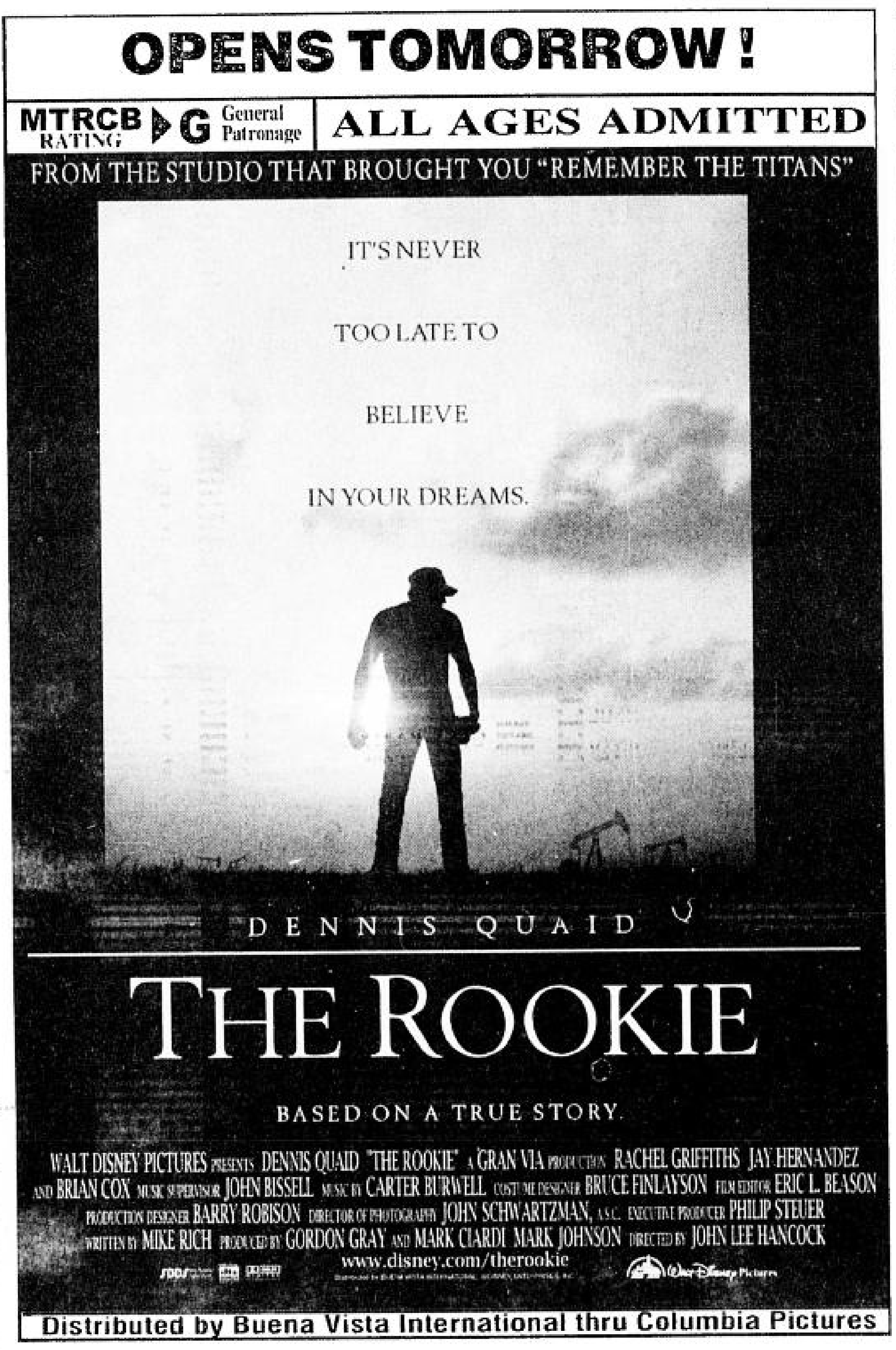

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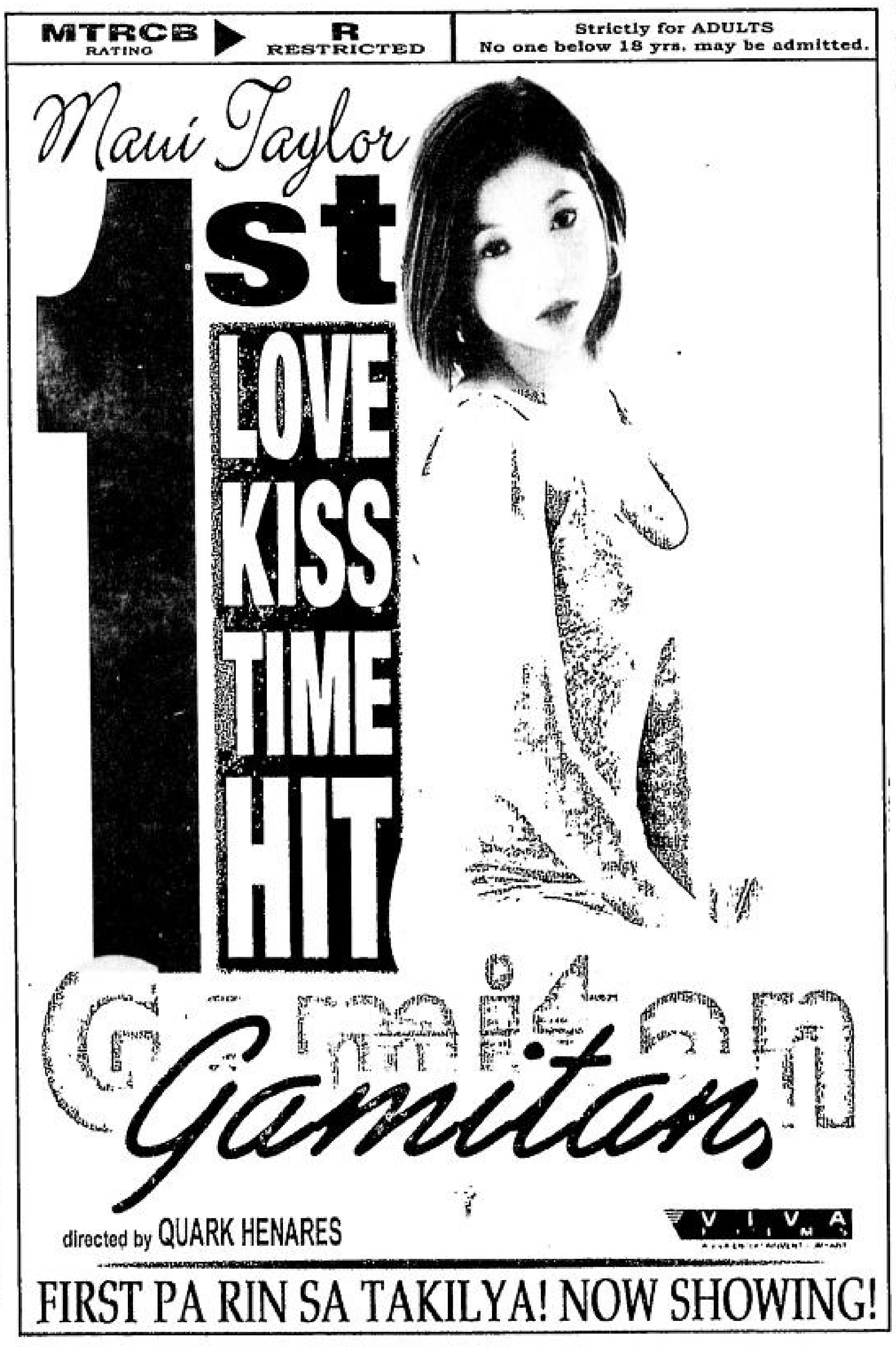

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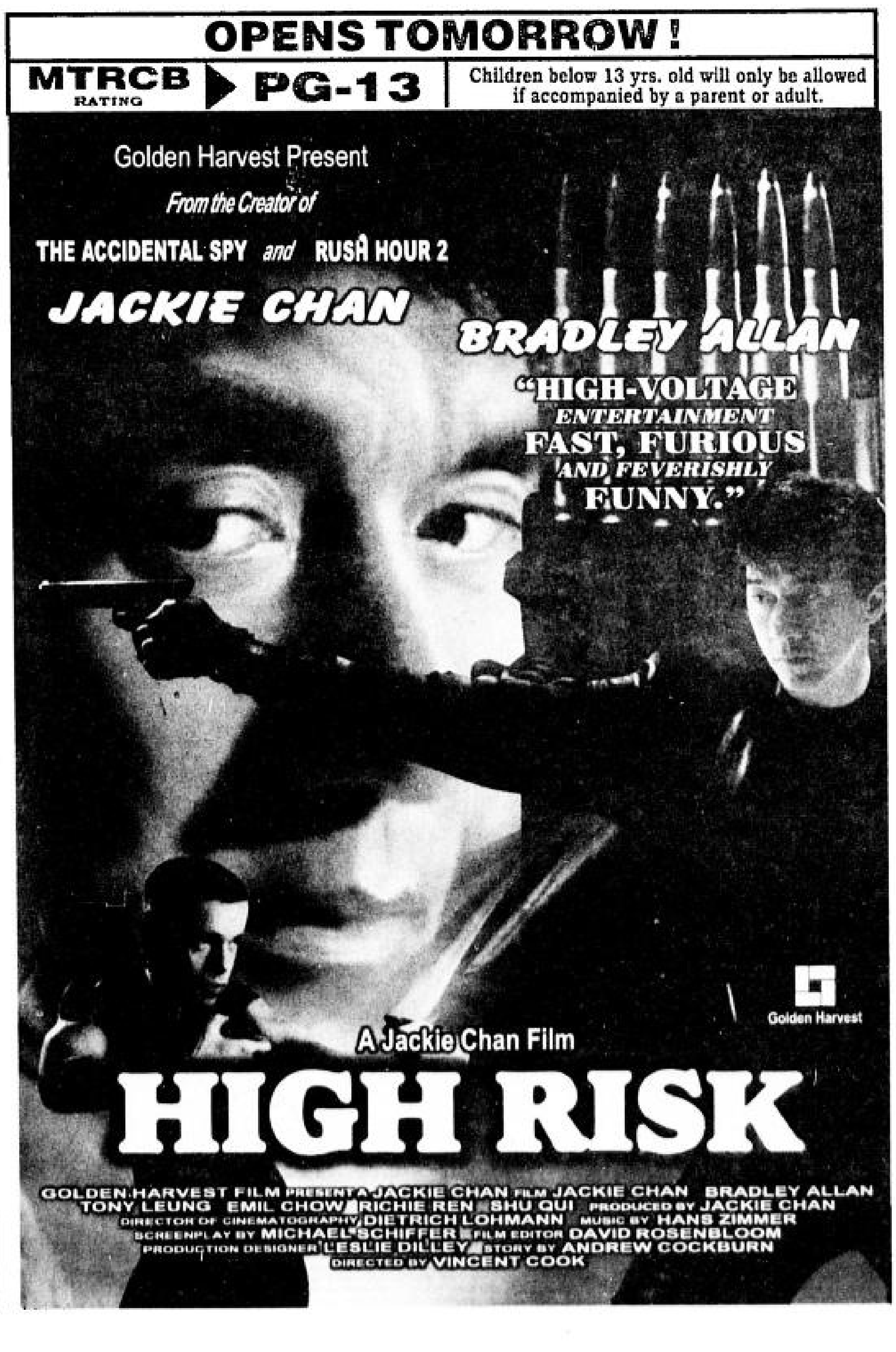

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Standout shows on NGC

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DURING the past few months, we've gotten into the habit of switching to the National Geographic Channel, especially at night, when NGC telecasts its best programs and documentaries. This September., the potential standouts include:

Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 9 p.m., "Planet Green: Plastic Fantastic." In only one century, plastics have permeated every aspect of our existence—replacing body parts, shaping our homes and appliances, the clothes we wear and the packaging for everything we eat and drink.

This *is* the Age of Plastics, and the program will explore both their beneficial and environment-*un*friendly sides.

Thursday, Sept. 5 at 9 p.m., "Planet Green: Hot Science Special." This is the special telecast compiling the 10 best environmental stories from around the world. This new ideas and technologies help secure the healthy future of our planet, while solving current problems.

Monday, Sept. 9 at 9 p.m., "Emmy Winners: The Photographers." NGC is screening a series of shows that are Emmy Award-winners, and their initial telecast focuses on famous National Geographic photographers who sometimes have to risk their lives to capture their unique images.

Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 9 p.m., "Emmy Winners: Parasites." Another outstanding program, this documentary both exposes and extols the microscopic life-forms that have killed more people that all the wars in history.

Sunday, Sept. 29 at 10 p.m., "Evolution: the Mind's Big Bang." Anatomically, modern humans existed more than 100,000 years ago, but with crude technology, no art, and only primitive social interaction.

But 50,000 years ago, something which triggered a creative, technological and social explosion—and humans dominated the planet. This was a pivotal point in our evolution, the time when the human mind truly emerged.

"The Mind's Big Bang" examines the forces that may have contributed to the breakthrough. Then, it explores where this power of mind may load us, as the culture we create overtakes our biological evolution.

Quiz-show errors

LOI Landicho shares this compilation of bemusing errors on local quiz programs. Smile *naman dyan*:

Quizmaster: *Anong* cord ang *pinuputol sa bagong panganak na* baby?

Contestant: Biblical cord!

(As Robin, the Boy Wonder, would put it, "Holy baby!" it's umbilical cord.)

* * *

Q: *Kapag sinasabing ikaw ay* Cancer, *ano ang* zodiac sign *mo*?

C: Alimango!

(*Tong-tong-tong pakitung-kitong* . . . —No, *dapat* Cancer!)

* * *

Q; *Sinong* "Pedro" *na mula sa* Ilocos *ang sinsabing sumulat ng epikong "Biag ni Lam-ang"*?

C: Penduko!

(Writer *na*, superhero *pa*?—No, *dapat* Bukaneg!)

Artist of the Month

HILDA Koronel is the Artist of the Month for September on Viva Cinema. Every Saturday at 9 p.m., one of her starrers will be shown to remind viewers of her exceptional beauty and talent:

Sept. 8, "Beloved" with **Nora Aunor, Christopher de Leon** and **Dindo Fernando.** Friendship takes a wrong turn and becomes violent when Nora finds herself a pawn in Hilda's many games.

Sept. 15, "Kapag Puso'y Sinugatan" with Christopher de Leon, **Rio Locsin** and **Jaypee de Guzman.** Will Hilda be able to forgive a man who raped and got her pregnant?

Sept. 22, "Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan" with **Vilma Santos.** Hilda lends her husband to Vilma so he can pretend to be her dying son's father. They don't know that this part of Hilda's plan to make them fall in love, have a child, and finally get the child she can never have.

Sept. 29, "Palabra de Honor," with **Eddie Garcia.** This film about a patriarch and the immense power he wields also stars **Jackielou Blanco, Ronaldo Valdez, Gloria Diaz, Dindo Fernando, Elizabeth Oropesa, Mark Gil, Beth Bautista, Amy Austria** and **Tommy Abuel.**

'The Gifted Child'

"THE Gifted Child," a benefit concert for the Philippine Society for Crippled Children, will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, at Zillion Entertainment Hall, Level 4, Robinson's Galleria. It features singer-guitarist **Paolo Santos,** with the special participation of **Kyla** and the Rondalla on Wheels.

Paolo is well-liked for his exemplary renditions of songs made popular by folk and jazz artists like **James Taylor, Kenny Rankin, Tracy Chapman,** and **Kenny Loggins.** He also has his own radio program on Wave 89.1 FM.

Call 723-5907 or text 0918-9625328 for inquiries and reservations.

"FAB FOUR" FROM LONDON. Blue is the hottest British pop act.

PLDT brings Blue mania to Manila

PLDT MyMusic, the latest and coolest premium phone service, grooves with UK's hottest act, Blue ("All Rise," "Too Close" and "Best in Me"), this month.

The four-member London based R and B band comes to the Philippines for a three-day musical experience capped by the Blue party at the NBC Tent.

Blue is the latest among the top acts brought in by PLDT MyMusic after A-1 and Jennifer Paige.

Blue, whose debut single "All Rise" went straight to No.1 in the UK charts after its release, has been touted as the best pop new artist in the recent UK Pop awards and best British newcomer in the Brit Awards 2002.

The band is composed of four London-based lads Duncan James (22), Anthony Costa (20), Lee Ryan (18) and Simon Webbe (22) whose career started atop the snowcapped mountains of Norway.

Lee will not be able to join the Asian tour due to an injury sustained in a motorcycle mishap. However, the show goes on for the three Blue boys in Manila.

"PLDT's MyMusic is destined to be at the forefront of every major music event that will happen in this country," shares Butch Jimenez, PLDT vice president for media and communications.

With access to over 2.2 million subscribers, only PLDT MyMusic can bring stars, artists, music and interactivity closer to the music fans nationwide.

The phone service has been gaining popularity among the young ages 6 to 28, as it has become the hotline to a total, personalized and interactive music experience.

It is only thru PLDT MyMusic that fans can actually have a live voice chat with the artists. Callers can also simply listen to interviews with the likes of Mandy Moore and Jennifer Paige via the service.

The most popular feature of PLDT MyMusic is the games where callers can win fabulous and exclusive items featuring their fave artists.

"The music scene has a new ally and its PLDT MyMusic," claims Gary Dujali, MyMusic head for PLDT.

Dialing 1-908-MY-MUSIC (1-908-69687420) using any PLDT landline, with NDD, TouchCard, Foncard Plus, and Teletipid/Telesulit for only P10/minute is a whole new musical experience they never dreamed could be possible thru the phone.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	JOLOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	AUSTIN POWERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DERAILED
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SIGNS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DERAILED
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAMASAN / MONSTER BALL
ODEON	DERAILED
ODEON-2	RESIDENT EVIL / PILAK
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	K-PAX ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	GAMITAN
REMAR	DERAILED
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	GAMITAN
B	JOLOGS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-2	SIGNS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-8	JOLOGS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-12	SIGNS
CINEMA-14	DERAILED
CINEMA-15	JOLOGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA 1	INSOMIA
CINEMA-2	SPIRIT
CINEMA-3	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-4	TRIPLE-X
CINEMA-5	DERAILED
CINEMA-6	[illegible]
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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AUSTIN POWERS - 13P 12:20,2:30,4:40,6:50 **SIGNS - P13** 9:00	**JOLOGS** **P13** 11:45,1:55,4:05, 6:15,8:25	**SIGNS** **P13** 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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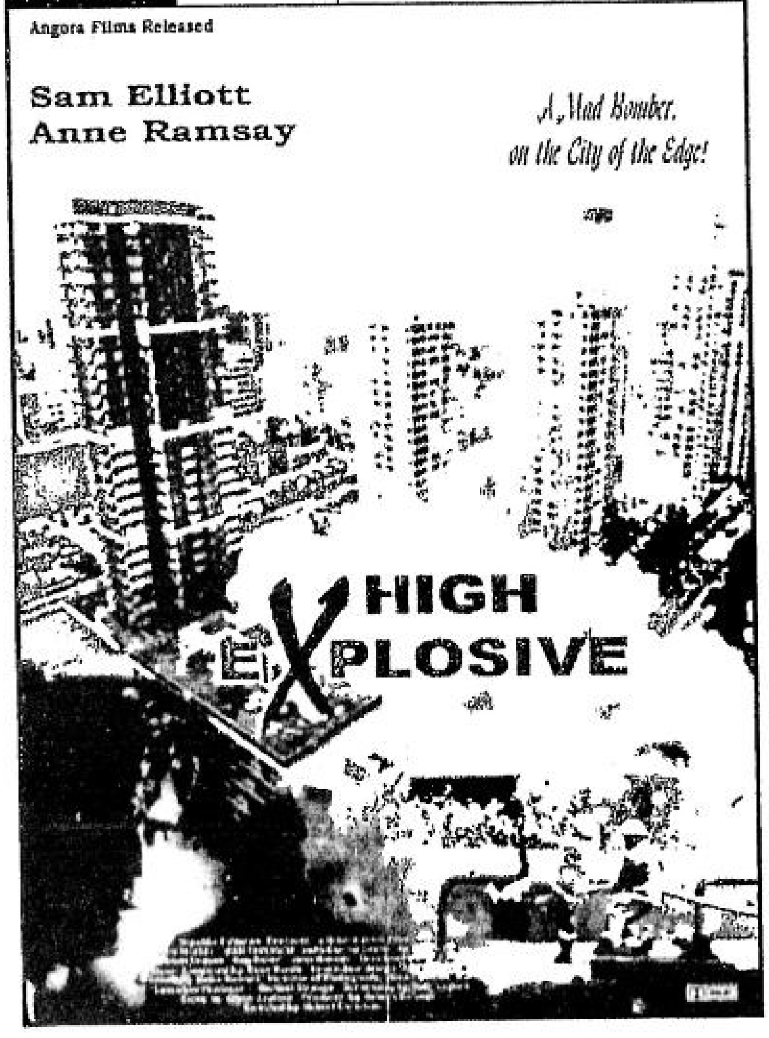

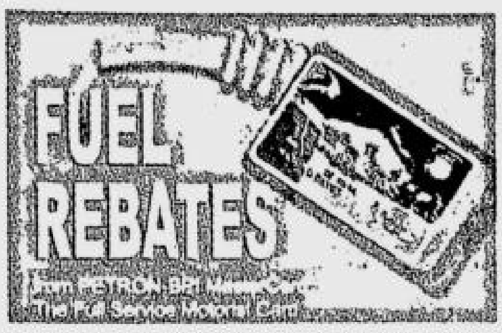

TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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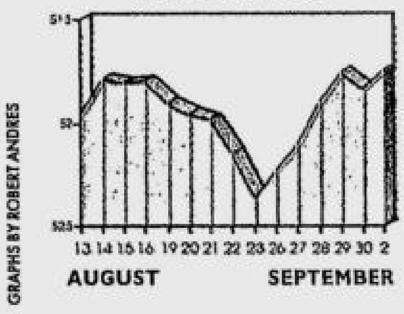

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.75 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2002

¥118.44 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2002

GOLD: $312.20/312.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 2, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 0.5%

PHILIPPINE share prices fell 0.5 percent Monday amid continuing concerns over a rising budget deficit and how it would affect interest rates, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gave up 5.07 points to close at 1,098.29 points.

Turnover rose to 226.58 million shares worth P224.05 million from 88.03 million shares worth P195.17 million on Friday.

"There is a lack of fresh leads as usual," said Mike Ordinanza of PCI Capi-

SHARES/ B2

Economic managers see 4.9% second-half growth

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S economic team yesterday painted a rosy picture of the domestic economy, with growth seen hitting 4.9 percent in the second half of the year.

In a midyear briefing, the Macapagal administration's economic managers told businessmen they were confident growth figures in the second half of the year would remain robust.

Their optimism contrasted sharply with assessments made by analysts in the region that growth for some Asian economies, including the Philippines, may already be slowing down.

Economists estimate that the Philippines, still boasting of robust growth, will peak at a later stage.

The Philippines' second-quarter gross domestic product grew 4.5 percent, the fastest in five years, but the country's ballooning fiscal deficit could make private sector credit more pricey and limit the scope for any pump priming, according to economists.

The government's key economic officials, however, disagree with the assessment.

"We are in a much better position now than 18 months ago before the Arroyo administration took over. Both the GDP and export growth in the first half of the year have exceeded our expectations, while interest rates and inflation are at all-time lows," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

Gilbert Llanto, deputy director of the National Economic and Development Authority, said the economy, as measured in terms of GDP numbers, would likely grow by 3.9 to 4.9 percent in the second half of the year.

GDP refers to the monetary value of all the goods and services produced by an economy over a specified period. It includes consumption, government purchases, investments and exports minus imports. It is perhaps the greatest indicator of the economic health of a country.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, for his part, underscored the importance of passing economic reform measures pending in Congress.

These measures include a proposed law providing incentives to banks creating "special purpose asset vehicles" and a bill on the privatization of the National Power Corp.'s transmission company.

ECONOMIC/ B3

Passion

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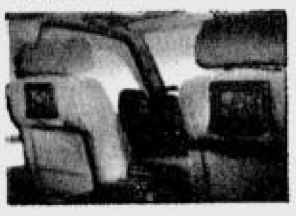
HIACE



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PSE threatens to de-list JG over First Pac deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange threatened yesterday to remove from its roster JG Summit Holdings Inc. over a $925-million deal that JG Summit majority owner John Gokongwei Jr. signed with Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

In a news briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung said JG Summit could be "de-listed" should Gokongwei's flagship firm fail to reach a deal with the stock exchange.

JG Summit and the PSE are scheduled to meet today to find a settlement, he disclosed.

The stock exchange has fined JG Summit for supposedly failing to disclose information regarding Gokongwei's deal with First Pacific.

On June 4, First Pacific signed a memorandum of agreement relinquishing its controlling stakes in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bonifacio Land Corp. to a $925-million joint venture that the Gokongwei group would control.

Leung disclosed that JG Summit had already accumulated some P80,000 worth of fines.

"A scenario could be that they challenge us, or they say, 'I don't like to play your game anymore' voluntarily, so there's a disengagement process," Leung told reporters.

In that case, Leung said the stock exchange would prepare to remove JG Summit from its list. This means JG Summit will be unable to trade its shares in the stock market.

Leung clarified that the PSE was not threatening to unilaterally de-list JG Summit but that it had to defend its disclosure rules.

"If I tell you that you are a member of this organization. You have a responsibility to the public. If there are certain things about your company that the public must know, timeliness is an important factor. For this purpose, these are the rules," Leung said.

"If there's any information that comes out which are not enough to the market, we'll ask you to explain it, and you must give us the answer within a certain time. Those are the rules," he stressed.

Gokongwei has said that JG Summit is not a party to his deal with First Pacific, a fact "inadvertently missed" in disclosure papers sent to regulators in New York and Manila.

In a letter, Gokongwei's counsel, Perry Pe, said there were erasures in the copy of the memorandum of agreement sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission, as the Gokongwei group and First Pacific had to "rush" their deal to comply with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

"The whole rush was because First Pacific had to disclose the deal to the appropriate regulatory agency-the Hong Kong Stock Exchange-the following day," Pe said.

In the copy of the memorandum of agreement sent to the SEC, the words "JG Summit Holdings Inc." were erased in the last page, although it was stated in the first page that the deal was between JG Summit and First Pacific.

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Alabang A/B	1.5M/1.6M	Celebrity	175,000
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Manila Southwoods "A"/"B"	500/690	Fontana A	150,000
Makati Sports "B"	260	Sta Elena A	Please call
Mimosa	120,000	Tagaytay Highland Golf	840,000
Mt Malarayat "A"/"C"	330/460	Valley Golf	290,000
Wack Wack	6,775,000		

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SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF SEPT. 2, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,500,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,600,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	680,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	110,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	400,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	270,000	250,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	260,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	730,000	700,000
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	110,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	340,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" "B" "C"	Please call	Please call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	340,000	320,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	800,000
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	160,000
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	280,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,800,000	

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DTI fines Shopwise ad firm

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

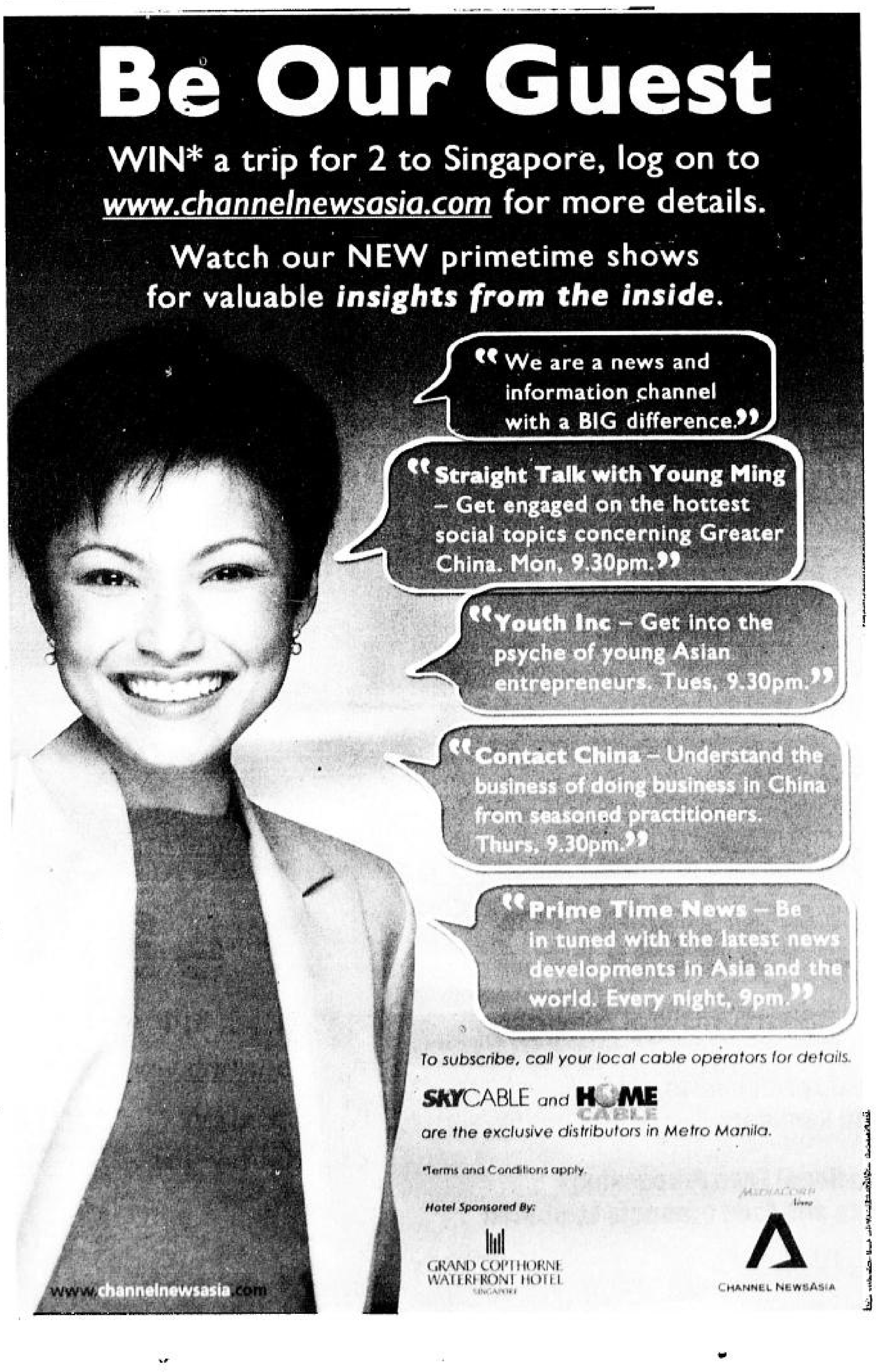
THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has penalized Shopwise Supermarket's advertising agency, ConsultUs, for its "Wild Deals 2" promo series that the consumer watchdog found to be misleading.

The DTI-National Capital Region fined ConsultUs with P60,000 for violating a provision in the Consumer Act that stipulated that all advertising, brochure or any printed materials indicating or describing the mechanics of the promotion should conform with the mechanics approved by the trade department.

The DTI-NCR ruled that ConsultUs deviated from the version it submitted in the printed advertisements for its Wild Deals 2 promo.

It said ConsultUs omitted a key item in the promotion that limited to only a specific number of customers—only those who collected the most number of vouchers during the promo period—entitled to buy digital video disk players, scooters and pickups at substantial discounts.

Each publication of the print advertisement from July 18 to 20 this year was considered by the DTI as a single violation, which carried a penalty of P20,000 each.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(As of Monday, September 2, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	3,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	20,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	42.5	42.5	91,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	27.5	27.5	23,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34.5	34.5	34	34	161,600
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	3,500
Phil. Savings Bank	20	26	20	26	4,700
Security Bank Corp.	13	13	12.5	12.5	29,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	18,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1180	1180	1180	1180	3,960
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	910	910	910	1,040
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	1,270,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	485	487.5	485	487.5	520
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	250,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	1,000
Piltel	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	282.5	282.5	277.5	280	194,420
Ivantage Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	160,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	44,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	1,100
Manila Electric Co. B	30	30.5	30	30.5	94,700
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	101,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	20,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	157,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	15,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	58,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	85,100
Rfm Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	170,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	230,400
San Miguel Corp. B	52	52	52	52	63,600
Universal Robina Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	23,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	6,404,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	19,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	90,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.17	150,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.23	2,480,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	330,000
DMCI Holdings, Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Ebecom Holdings, Inc.	5	5	5	5	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	360,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	13.25	13.25	12.75	12.75	462,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	170,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	2,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.225	1,000,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	30,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	340,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.7	0.73	0.7	0.73	220,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	90,000
Pryce Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8	8	7.9	7.9	33,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	250,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	170,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.11	90,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.11	800,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	50,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	9,839,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,600,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.145	340,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.14	1.18	6,195,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	140,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	360,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	3,788,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	260,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	30,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	290,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	570,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	74,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	1,300,000

CURRENCIES

Sept. 2, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.017812	1.000000	51.8280
Japan	Yen	0.008598	0.008448	0.4378
United Kingdom	Pound	1.578321	1.550700	80.3697
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130491	0.128207	6.6447
Switzerland	Franc	0.679946	0.668047	34.6235
Canada	Dollar	0.653155	0.641725	33.2593
Singapore	Dollar	0.581939	0.571755	29.6329
Australia	Dollar	0.559391	0.549602	28.4848
Bahrain	Dinar	2.700052	2.652801	137.4894
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271410	0.266660	13.8205
Brunei	Dollar	0.579983	0.569833	29.5333
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024136	0.023714	1.2290
UAE	Dirham	0.277129	0.272279	14.1117
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000839	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.982500	50.9210
Argentina	Real	0.281163	0.276243	14.3171
Brazil	Real	0.336578	0.330688	17.1389
Denmark	Kroner	0.134676	0.132319	6.8578
India	Rupee	0.021021	0.020653	1.0704
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267881	0.263193	13.6408
Mexico	New Peso	0.102489	0.100695	5.2188
New Zealand	Dollar	0.475925	0.467596	24.2346
Norway	Kroner	0.135110	0.132746	6.8800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017193	0.016892	0.8755
South Africa	Rand	0.096889	0.095193	4.9337
Sweden	Kroner	0.108501	0.106602	5.5250
Syria	Pound	0.023027	0.022624	1.1726
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029813	0.029291	1.5181
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000721	0.000708	0.0367

DISCLOSURES

QUEENBEE Resources Corp. has declared a bonus warrant for every six warrants held as of Sept. 20 this year.

* * *

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. has clarified that it will continue to open more branches this year, contrary to earlier reports, and will even establish microfinance-oriented branches.

* * *

CITYLAND Development Corp. has announced that its compliance officer in relation to its manual on corporate governance is Rufina Buensuceso.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Shares fall 0.5%

From page B1

tal. "This time represents a very good opportunity to get in, but a lot of people are hesitant to buy into the market. They're looking where interest rates will go."

Manny Cruz of Mark Securities Corp. said while the deficit problem has been factored in, "the budget deficit is a symptom of a deteriorating economy." "It will have a domino effect (on economic numbers)."

Ayala Land was the day's most active share, rising 10 centavos to P5.60 while parent Ayala Corp. was unchanged at P5.20. *AFP*

Unchanged melody

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ON this space last Aug. 9, I wrote something about a favorite issue of ours, as guys who pay for high electricity bills. And that was, well, the one and only Napocor.

I said something about how, in 1996, a certain Marcelino Abesamis, an officer of Napocor, was project director of Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak power transmission project.

Napocor contracted the project to the ABB-Siemens consortium, which were both foreign companies. Abesamis made a separate agreement with ABB-Siemens to reduce its work.

He then gave the work to another firm, Alfine Construction, costing Napocor an additional P10 million. I thought it was not loose change. We paid for it eventually.

Napocor of course conducted an investigation, in which Abesamis claimed he got "verbal" instruction from the Napocor president at that time.

The Napocor investigators still recommended that criminal charges be filed against Abesamis for violation of the graft and corruption law.

No case was ever filed against him. He is now the manager of the important Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power complex.

* * *

IN reaction, Abesamis wrote the INQUIRER a letter, which was published as a letter to the editor last Aug. 22. He made himself appear like a canonized saint. He called me a liar.

Well, I am not the project manager in a government outfit who can afford so many luxury cars, my colleagues are already talking about where I get all that money. I also do not go about town with bodyguards.

Yesterday, I received a letter from a Napocor engineer. I checked him out, and he was authentic.

His letter shows a popular practice in government projects. Contractors submit low bids to win the contract, and in the middle of the project, they collude with insiders to cut the cost.

They simply change the specs like they were just changing GROs in karaoke bars in the middle of a song. What's that—unchanged melody? Believe me, it happens everyday.

* * *

THAT letter from that Napocor engineer, whose name I must withhold for obvious reasons, reads in part:

"I am appalled by the callousness and dishonesty in Mar Abesamis' explanation regarding the engagement of Alfine Construction. The explanation is full of untruths and misleading information.

"Mar Abesamis did not mention that Napocor's contract with the consortium of ABB-Siemens provided that the backfilling works were part of the responsibilities of the consortium.

"This was pointed out by Internal Audit.

"He also did not mention that he was negotiating with the consortium for amendments to the contract that included the transfer of responsibility of the backfilling works (as part of the means of access to the lower sites) to Napocor without the corresponding reduction in contractual fees.

"The negotiation was documented in minutes of meetings. In one of the minutes, it was recommended that the phrase in the contract which specified the ABB-Siemen consortium's responsibility for making suitable provisions when access to the project is inadequate, be deleted.

"On the basis of the minutes, Mar Abesamis proceeded to engage the services of Alfine Construction for the backfilling works. Also on the basis of the minutes, Napocor general counsel (Alberto) Pangcog issued the legal opinion stating that Napocor was under obligation to provide the means of access.

"It does not take a lawyer to understand that mere minutes of meetings or negotiation cannot alter an already signed contract, especially when the contents of the minutes were against the interest of Napocor.

"It was clear to Internal Audit, and to us, that at the time Mar Abesamis engaged the services of Alfine Construction, the contract with the consortium points the responsibility for the backfilling works to the ABB-Siemens consortium.

"Sometime later, Mar Abesamis signed a supplemental agreement with the consortium in which Napocor accepted responsibility for the means of access. He was not authorized by the Napocor board to do this.

"The board would not have given that authority, anyway, since the supplemental agreement was onerous against Napocor's interest. Mar Abesamis did not even bother to answer this matter. He cannot.

"He claims that he was delegated the authority to engage the services of Alfine Construction. His evidence of this authority is a statement made by then Napocor president (Delgado) during a supposed meeting of the board.

"Delgado's statement was not a delegation of authority by the board, no matter how you look at it. An authority comes in a numbered board resolution, duly approved by a majority of the members of the board. There is no such a thing here.

"The minutes of the board's meeting that Mar Abesamis mentions is non-existent. He is pulling your leg, as he has been pulling ours all these years.

"Considering that the services of Alfine Construction was not necessary, in the first place, these claims of Mar Abesamis regarding the low cost of the services and the avoidance of penalties are hogwash, engineering gobbledygook, or smoke screen.

"It is not true that the Internal Audit report was never given credence in Napocor. Well, maybe by his top brass friends. If he should know, the Internal Audit has the authority and competence to determine the issues of legality as part of its functions.

"By the way, we are puzzled by Atty. Pangcog's legal opinion. He should have acted in the interest of Napocor. Maybe that is the matter that you may also look into. Talk of legal opinion and engineering evaluation for sale are very demoralizing to our ranks.

"The supposed 'huge savings realized by Napocor' is baseless and is just a smoke screen to hide the anomalies. In truth, Napocor was defrauded of millions of pesos ultimately paid for by the electricity consumers.

"Government employees with enough self-respect do not profess, much less take pride in, integrity simply because no cases have been filed against them. Mar Abesamis should not be so lucky and untouchable as to worm his way out through fabrications, as he had been doing all these years. That is very demoralizing to the majority of employees who, though silent, have genuine respect for public service.

"Please do not tire from covering the issues on Napocor. That is the only way that the irregularities in the company can be brought out in the open, free from the censorship of a well-established clique of 'enriched' officials."

Napocor sale to raise $4-5B

THE PRIVATIZATION of National Power Corp.'s transmission and generation assets is expected to generate some $4-$5 billion which, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. said, could help plug the country's consolidated public sector deficit.

"If we do not sell Napocor, the government will have to find ways—including borrowing from different sources—to offset the foregone proceeds (from the sale)," PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso said in a statement.

Del Fonso noted that the country's budget deficit has reached P133 billion as of July, exceeding the projected P130-billion for the whole year.

The PSALM chief added that Napocor's privatization would also provide yearly savings of about $500 million or P25 billion in financing charges.

"Privatizing Napocor will free the government from a lot of financial burdens because the operations and maintenance of Napocor facilities will be passed on to the private sector," Del Fonso said.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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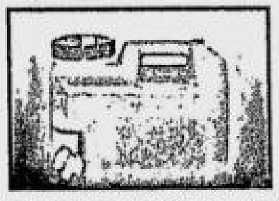

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New incentives OKd

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENTS of Finance and Trade and Industry have reached a common ground on the creation of a new fiscal incentive package aimed at perking up investor interest in the country.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has acceded to the need to provide a competitive incentive package to attract investors while Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II has acknowledged the need to be more discriminate in doling out fiscal perks.

Camacho said the DOF realized that "the government has to spend money to get more money." This is why the DOF has dropped its opposition to the DTI's proposal to stretch the income tax holiday to a maximum of 12 years to put the Philippines at par or ahead of other Asean countries.

Roxas said the DTI has drawn up several measures aimed at ensuring that the incentives would go to firms or projects that have the biggest impact on the economy. Roxas said the government would go for projects that generate vast job opportunities in line with the administration's poverty alleviation thrust.

The DTI has proposed the adoption of a three-tier income tax holiday system—4-year, 8-year, and 12-year—that would fit in to a more specific set of industries.

Roxas said the granting of the 12-year income tax holiday would have to be approved not only by the DTI but also by the DOF and the Department of Budget and Management that would be part of a special incentives-giving body. The inclusion of the DOF and DBM in the incentives-granting process was apparently meant to appease concerns that incentives have been given "too freely" in the past without any clear benefits to the economy.

But Roxas said the amendments to the Omnibus Investments Act were likely to be made only next year because the administration has other, more pressing bills for legislation this year such as the SPAV and Transco. Since the incentives bill has to pass the House of Representatives first before the Senate, Roxas said the government would need at least a year to approve the investment package.

Aside from the income tax holiday, the DTI has proposed to add in the incentives package the following: a 5-percent gross corporate tax, duty-free importation of capital equipment, net operating loss carry-over and accelerated depreciation. These, the DTI believes, will help reverse the decline in the flow of investments into the country and divert part of the foreign capital gushing into China.

Economic . . .

From page B1

"We need the SPAV (law) to take out the bad loans of banks and for these institutions to start lending again so we can achieve better economic growth," Buenaventura said.

Llanto said the government was on track to meeting its economic growth targets of 4 to 4.5 percent in terms of GDP and 4.5 to 5 percent in terms of gross national product.

Improvements of the industry and services sectors will offset a slight decline in the farm sector in the last six months, he said.

He said from a 2.2-percent growth in the first half, the industry sector should grow by 3.8 and 4.5 percent in the second half, while the services sector should expand by 4.8 to 5.8 percent from 5.3 percent in the first half.

Llanto said except for China and South Korea, whose robust economies should grow by 7 and 5 percent, the Philippine economy was likely to outperform its neighbors.

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OCCUPANCY RATES

Serviced apartments outdo hotels, condos

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE SERVICED apartment business is said to be an emerging business. This sector is predicted to become well-established in the Philippines. Aside from the expatriate demand, locals are seeing its benefits considering the limited transport infrastructure.

Where would you rather be in—serviced apartments or hotels? Both have similar features and characteristics but what makes serviced apartments tick?

The serviced apartment, described as resembling conventional residential flats in terms of design, size and internal layout, currently enjoys high occupancy levels—as much as 80 percent in contrast to the decreasing levels of occupancy in hotels, and in residential condominiums.

Serviced apartments, just like hotels, have a central management system that provides cleaning and maintenance services.

Occupancy rate

The average occupancy rate of the Department of Tourism accredited hotels in Metro Manila for 2001 was 56 percent and 59 percent in 2000. Occupancy rates of residential condominiums average 70 percent and are expected to remain subdued in the high-end luxury development sector. The vacancy rate for residential condos is forecast to rise to 30 percent in 2002 from 26 percent in 2001.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The August 2002 Serviced Apartment analysis of FPDSavills Philippines Research further revealed what makes serviced apartments tick: A flexible rental period is identified as the main come-on. Serviced apartment agreements also allow the tenant to specify the length of occupation. Serviced apartments also provide private cooking and laundry facilities that hotel accommodations could not.

Standard services for serviced apartments include fully furnished kitchenette and air-conditioned suites, daily maid service, safety deposit boxes, 24-hour standby generators, business services such as faxes, e-mail, photocopying and message center. Some even have health or spa services, fitness centers and restaurants. Others have fully serviced offices, private parking and airport transfers.

FPDSavills, meanwhile, said the notable decrease in hotels is a result of the decline in the average occupancy rates for deluxe and standard hotels. Furthermore, the average occupancy rate of 58.7 percent in Metro Manila accredited hotels from January to March 2002 was a slight decline compared to the same period in 2001.

3 major projects

The occupancy rates of Oakwood Premier serviced residences (the only purpose-built serviced apartment so far), Discovery Suites and Linden Suites (which both function as serviced apartments and hotels)—known as Manila's three major serviced apartment projects—averaged between 70 and 75 percent in 2001, while occupancy levels in smaller and older serviced apartments ranged from 40 to 65 percent.

Makati CBD-based serviced apartments' average occupancy rate in 2001 increased to 60 percent from 54 percent in 2000 despite the global slowdown of the economy and decline in tourist arrivals. The Ortigas CBD's serviced apartment occupancy levels averaged 71 percent in 2001, maintaining 2000 levels.

At the moment, high and medium serviced apartments are in short supply and total only 806 units out of a total stock of 2,328 units, said FPDSavills.

BETOY JOHNSON

MUNTINLUPA Mayor Jaime Fresnedi and Vice Mayor Jojay Alcaraz award the house keys to an unidentified housewife during ceremonies held recently.

Habitat turns over keys to homeless families

By Charles E. Buban

A SELECT number of homeless families in Muntinlupa City has finally received their house keys in a ceremony led by the Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation.

Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, Muntinlupa Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor chair Percival Chavez and Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi led the turnover rites benefiting 10 families belonging to targeted 250 recipients nationwide.

Now on its third year, Youth Build 2002 is setting up 20 construction sites around the country where Habitat maintains a local chapter: Western Batangas, Metro Cebu, Butuan and Muntinlupa City.

Together with government officials, Margie Moran-Floreindo, steering committee co-chair of Youth Build 2002 and Nards Leviste, president of Habitat for Humanity Muntinlupa awarded plaques of appreciation to various donors who sponsored the houses for the project.

The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines and the Kinetic Trading Corp. also turned over to Habitat the money they raised through sale of purified water in CEAP-affiliated schools.

The Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to building houses for families in need of simple, yet decent shelters.

Habitat for Humanity Philippines is part of an international group founded by Americans Millard and Linda Fuller in 1976. Since then it has expanded to over 1,500 affiliates in the United States, while over 100,000 families worldwide are living in Habitat homes. Overall, Habitat International has worked in more than 63 countries including the Philippines.

Land values increase due to Marcos tomb reports

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The value of real estate property in Batac, Paoay and Sarrat towns in Ilocos Norte has increased following reports on the planned construction of a multimillion-peso tomb of strongman Ferdinand Marcos in the province, the designer of Marcos' "Maharlika" gravesite said here.

In a meeting with reporters here on Wednesday, architect Normandy Canlas said the increase in real estate prices in the three towns was triggered by INQUIRER reports on the plan of former First Lady Imelda Marcos to finally bury her husband in Ilocos Norte.

The remains of Marcos, who died in September 1989, have remained in a refrigerated crypt at the Marcos mansion in Batac since 1993.

The tomb will be built on a three-hectare lot either in Paoay or within the Mariano Marcos State University property in Batac, depending on the final decision of the Marcos family, Canlas said.

However, the INQUIRER could not immediately confirm Canlas' claims that the value of property in Batac, Paoay and Sarrat has increased.

But the INQUIRER learned that several lots in Ilocos Norte have been offered for free to the Marcos family to serve as the gravesite of Marcos.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The property includes lands owned by the state-run MMSU main campus in Batac. The university was named after the late president's father.

Dr. Saturnino Ocampo, MMSU president, said they have offered to donate at least three lots to accommodate Marcos' remains.

These are a lot south of the university theater, a lot along the national road reserved for MMSU's poultry, piggery and dairy farm project in Barangay Tabug, and an area in Barangay Payao where MMSU's campus extension is located.

"We will offer to donate these lands. All the Marcoses have to do is to select one of them," Ocampo said.

Canlas said Mrs. Marcos had informed him that his "Maharlika" design would be incorporated in the designs of two or three other architects, including George Santos, a veteran Filipino architect.

"Mrs. Marcos told me that my design will be incorporated in the final design and that I will be included in a team of architects. Mrs. Marcos and I have been communicating frequently because she really wanted to pursue the construction of the tomb for her husband," he said.

Canlas, who was also a member of a team that designed and built the controversial P7-million Marcos tomb at a 100-square-meter area at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, said the Marcos family has yet to choose a final design for the tomb in Ilocos Norte.

Quoting sources from Mrs. Marcos' office, Canlas said several architects have been sending their design proposals to Mrs. Marcos in a bid to bag the contract for the design and construction of the multimillion-peso gravesite.

Canlas' "Maharlika" design includes a giant *salakot* (native hat) roof, a lake wherein a perpetually lit boat floats, statues as posts and ethnic Filipino designs.

Canlas, a native of Minalin, Pampanga, described his design as "huge and colossal with ethnic Filipino motif, a palatial grandeur with touch of modern technology and with museums, plazas, a library, a walk through history facilities, vast garden and transportation and lodging facilities."

He said the design was a result of an almost two-year research on the late strongman's life as a soldier, a congressman, a senator and a president and his death.

Aside from participating in the design and construction of the Marcos tomb at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Canlas said he also participated in the renovation of some mansions of the Marcoses. *With a report from Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Developers urge higher house price ceiling

LOW-END developers have called for the adjustment in the five-year-old selling price and loan ceiling of P180,000 for socialized housing packages, citing the steep rise in costs of standard construction meterials, labor, costs of funds and legal fees, as well as of expenses incidental to newly adopted government development standards for housing.

Wilfredo M. Tan, chair of the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines and active developer in Regions 1 and 3 of low-cost and socialized housing, urged the immediate adjustment in price ceiling to P225,000 per socialized housing unit to offset costs, which have effectively imperiled the viability of producing and selling these housing units.

Production cost increases

"It was in recognition of these production cost increases that the government adjusted effective March 13, 2000 the price ceilings for economic, medium-cost and open-market housing packages, ranging from 25 percent up to 100 percent increases, while ironically pegging the socialized housing ceiling at the 1997 rate of P180,000 per unit," Tan pointed out.

Hastening to allay fears that should the proposed price adjustment be approved, the costs of acquiring socialized housing would be beyond the affordability of homebuyers, Tan cited that the 26 percent increase in income by families from the 1997 level, could well absorb the contemplated increment given the modest cost of housing credit.

Proposed housing price

The proposed socialized housing price at P225,000, if charged the current interest rate of 9 percent and payable for 25 years would entail a monthly amortization of only P1,888.17. Given the urban poverty threshold of P15, 667 and inflation rate of 3.61 percent, a family of six belonging to this income sector could afford such package, Tan emphasized.

Tan also cited that based on the NSO data from 1996 to 2001, overall price index of prime construction commodities increased by 13.6 percent, labor component of housing development and construction rose at an average of 39 percent; housing inventory carrying cost due to prolonged mortgage financing process would entail 5 percent of capital costs, among others.

Even the loan ceiling for informal housing granted to the urban poor under the Community Mortgage Program was raised from P80,000 to P100,000 last year, Tan said.

NEARING COMPLETION
Now 90 percent complete is Paseo Parkview, a twin-tower luxury residential development of property giant Megaworld Corp. in the Makati central business district. The 40-story Tower 1, already topped off, and the 30-story Tower 2 are now undergoing key finishing works.

Empire East Properties to build science school at Governor's Hills

HOUSING developer Empire East Properties Inc. is readying plans for the development of a high-standard science school in its flagship 89-hectare Governor's Hills residential and commercial project in General Trias, Cavite.

After the successful launch of the project's phases 7 and 8, the company is looking at a 6,000-sq.-m area in phase 9 as the site of the school, which will be completed in two years starting early 2003.

Science school

The science school will house 28 classrooms as well as offices, laboratories and sports facilities. It will operate as a school for preschoolers and primary grade students before eventually accepting high school enrollees.

The school will offer a curriculum focused on science, mathematics and information technology as it aims to become a premier education hub in Cavite.

It is targeted to serve the residents of Governor's Hills, estimated to reach 30,000, as well as the school-age population of neighboring towns.

Empire East Properties is going into a partnership with Laguna BelAir School, a topnotch science- and mathematics-intensive education center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, for curriculum and faculty development and technical support in its operations.

Commercial area

In addition to a high-standard school, Governor's Hills will develop a 16-hectare commercial area that will cater to the workers of the industrial zones in the vicinity as well as the residents of the township and its nearby communities.

The developer is holding open-house activities every Sunday at the Governor's Hills project site for residential phases 1 to 6 and the recently launched phases 7 and 8, which offer triplex, duplex and single-detached residences. The company is also offering commercial spaces of the project to interested investors.

Little Baguio in Tagaytay

WHY rent, when you can own a piece of little Baguio in the heart of Tagaytay?

Cityland is making everyone's dream of owning an affordable lot in Tagaytay a reality, with the recent launch of Cityland Tagaytay Executive Village.

Strategically located at Barangay San Jose, Tagaytay City, Tagaytay Executive Village is very accessible to commercial establishments such as Olivarez Complex, Grand View Complex, marketplace, Days Hotel, Metrobank, Jollibee, Max, McDonald, Seven-Eleven and other scenic spots, making Tagaytay Executive Village a perfect hideaway from the city life.

Commercial and residential lots will be available at low introductory prices.

Special discounts will be given to the first few buyers.

Homes for the middle-income market

By Charles E. Buban

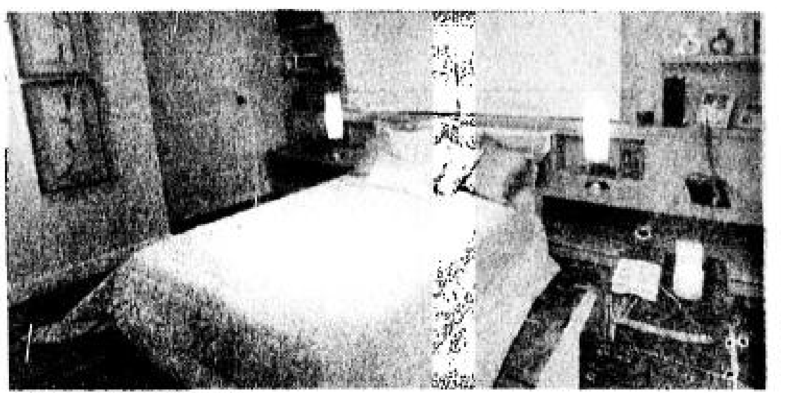
STRIKING the right balance of elements that cater to the middle-income earners is no easy job for any property developer: miss one or concentrate on the other would end up with either a posh community or low-cost housing.

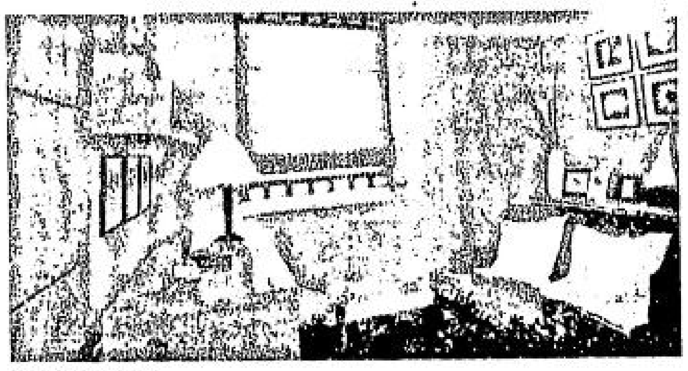
The middle-income segment is perhaps one of the toughest markets to please. The ones who make up this segment are very discriminating: As they look for an upmarket community they want this to be not too expensive as to drain their life's savings.

Until recently, there were few choices for residential properties that would really appeal to their preference. Most of the time, they are located far-off Metro Manila or within a crowded locale.

The Ayala Land Inc., long recognized for developing well-planned and high-quality projects, is now addressing this demand for quality urban residential projects catering to the middle-income market.

MODEL 143


MASTER'S bedroom


STUDY room

LIVING room

Dream community

The planned residential development in Bacoor, Cavite, called the Verdana Homes is truly a dream community with prices ranging from P3 million to just over P4 million.

Its developer, Community Innovations Inc. (an Ayala Land subsidiary) is confident it just found the right mix: a price that would really entice the middle-income market and a property that is well-situated, safe and carefully laid out.

"People who come here fit the description we are hoping to attract—newly-weds or start-up families with both spouses as income-earners. They may not be bosses of their respective companies yet, but they are on their way to the top," describes Ramon Barredo of Community Innovations project development about their buyers' profile.

Californian influence

If there's one unifying theme that will set Verdana Homes apart from its neighborhood, it's the California motif its developers used in the community's design. The architecture is basically a mix of American, Spanish and Mexican influences that extensively use earth colors and clay roof tiles. The design is employed to the clubhouse down to street lampposts.

But this will not mean, each house will carry the same look. "It's still up to the owners to decide how they will go about with their design but on our part we designed several homes carrying the same motif but with varied looks," says project architect and urban planner Gilbert Berba of Ayala Land Inc.

Verdana Homes offers lots ranging from 200 sq. m. to 400 sq. m. as well as house and lot packages with floor areas from 122 sq. m. to 203 sq. m. Right now, Community Innovations has four models to choose from: Model 122, Model 143, Model 177 and Model 203, the number signifying the unit's floor area. Each unit will feature three bedrooms, carport and roof deck.

The models, which designers Ivy Almario and Asuncion Berenguer conceptualized, exploit every space to create an ambience of spaciousness. The designer came up with a living-dining space that is beside each other. It leads to the outside garden to allow more light and air into the room.

At the unit's second level, the beautifully designed master's bedroom with spacious walk-in closet leads to a roof deck where one can place a coffee table.

The designers also introduced a new concept called great room, which is actually an American concept—a family room connected to the kitchen. The design reflects well of Filipino's preference for intimate family get-together. The family room can also be a TV or computer room or even a study room.

"The floor area may not look a lot on paper, but for those who have actually seen the models, they couldn't believe the space and possible design options. The project was really much thought of by the Ayala team and the interior designers did a wonderful job of creating a very roomy and functional unit," says architect Edwin Yabut of Community Innovations.

Central park

Recent trends have shown that developers of residential housing are not only building quality home units: They also create functional amenities around their houses as well. Facilities such as clubhouse, business center, playing courts, children's playground, swimming pools and even meditation gardens are now common stuffs inside subdivisions.

As one enters Verdana Homes, he will be greeted by the community's 1.4-hectare central park where all recreational family-oriented amenities are centrally located. "We decided to put everything in the middle of the community so it can be accessed more readily," explains Berba.

The park consolidates several elements: basketball court area, parking to accommodate functions and activities held at the clubhouse, open field for children and a separate pool for adults and children. In fact the pool is big enough (25 meters) to allow serious swimmers to do some lapping. There's also a meditation park, where benches are placed.

"Instead of creating one big building for the clubhouse, we came up with a structure with several components: the drop off area will lead to three areas, the function room, a multipurpose hall where one can hold parties, and there's the business office area. There is also a part which can be developed into a day-care center," says Yabut.

Complete community

Community Innovations is also complementing its property with service-oriented establishments like a mini drugstore, convenience store or small restaurant in front of the Verdana Homes' gates.

"This is actually not a novel idea (setting up small establishments near subdivisions), some enterprising residents are doing this in their place. Only this time the developer is the one putting them up together with the subdivision," says Berba.

Of course, these establishments are for the residents' convenience only. As for major shopping needs, the commercial centers are barely 10 minutes away (via Daang Hari road). "Verdana Homes offers a location that is just right—the church, schools and hospitals are minutes away. Yet its proximity to the business and commercial centers would still provide you that feeling of being in the countryside," describes Yabut.

"We build communities," says Berba. "What Ayala Land is trying to create here is an environment that can function by itself by providing our residents with facilities and support establishments they can only find in big subdivisions."

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Private sector to GMA: 'We'll deliver thousands of housing units'

THE PRIVATE housing sector will commit to President Macapagal-Arroyo the delivery of thousands of completed socialized and economic housing units in the next few months to boost the government's program for the homeless underprivileged and middle-income class.

And the sector expects to deliver more housing units if the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) will relax its lending policies, the Department of Agrarian Reform will support the housing program through faster land conversion and the local government units will cut red tape in the processing of development permits.

The pledging session will be the highlight of the 2002 national convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City on Oct. 9, 10 and 11.

Creba resolution

President Macapagal will be formally presented with a Creba resolution committing on behalf of housing developers to take aggressive efforts to deliver thousands of housing units with the assistance and facilities of government housing agencies under the HUDCC.

This was jointly announced by Housing Secretary Michael T. Defensor, HUDCC chair, and Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. All other housing industry associations have been urged to join the pledging session and make the same commitment to the President.

President Macapagal, in her recent State of the Nation Address, had identified housing as one of her administration's priority programs responding to the people's basic needs.

The Baguio City gathering is expected to be the biggest joint private sector-government convention. Florante C. Ofrecio is overall convention chair, while HUDCC Undersecretary Armando de Castro is overall co-chair. Dulalia, Ofrecio and Baguio City Mayor Bernardo Vergara will welcome the participants at the convention's opening session on Oct. 9.

3-day affair

The three-day affair will feature dialogues with Defensor and Secretaries Hernani A. Braganza of Agraian Reform, Heherson T. Alvarez of Environment and Natural Resources, Jose D. Lina of Interior and Local Government and Richard J. Gordon of Tourism while Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando will talk on good governance.

Workshops will be held with the heads of housing agencies aimed at clarifying and streamlining technical and legal policies, requirements, procedures and issues that continue to thwart the housing industry projects, especially for socialized and economic housing units designed for the masses.

On hand will be Romero FS. Quimbo, president, Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund); lawyer Winston F. Garcia, president-general manager, Government Service Insurance System; Commissioner Roque A. Magno, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board; Gonzalo A. Bongolan, president, Home Insurance Guaranty Corp.; lawyer Angelo T. Salud, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.; and lawyer Edgardo D. Pamaintuan, National Housing Authority. Efren "Choy" Alas, co-chair, Creba ways and means committee, will act as moderator. Pangasinan Gov. Victor E. Agbayani will talk on local housing initiatives.

Sen. Manuel B. Villar Jr. will discuss the chamber's housing agenda, while Rep. Prospero C. Nograles, chair, House committee on housing, will talk on pending housing bills. Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita (Parañaque City) will give an update on House Bill 1300, the proposed Omnibus Housing and Urban Development Act. and Rep. Constantino G. Jaraula (Cagayan de Oro City) will deliver an inspirational talk at the Gala Night dinner.

Business opportunities

Singaporean Ambassador Jacky Foo will give an overview of his country's real estate industry while Daniel Teo Tong How, president of the Real Estate International Federation, will talk on global business opportunities in the industry.

Imelda S. Sangalang, overall convention vice chair, will report on the status of the 2001 convention resolutions approved by the Creba-HUDCC National Convention in Bacolod City and the results of the 2002 preconvention workshops.

A real estate forum will be sponsored by the Real Estate Service Council of the Philippines and the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection of the Department of Trade and Industry on Oct. 11 at the Camp John Hay.

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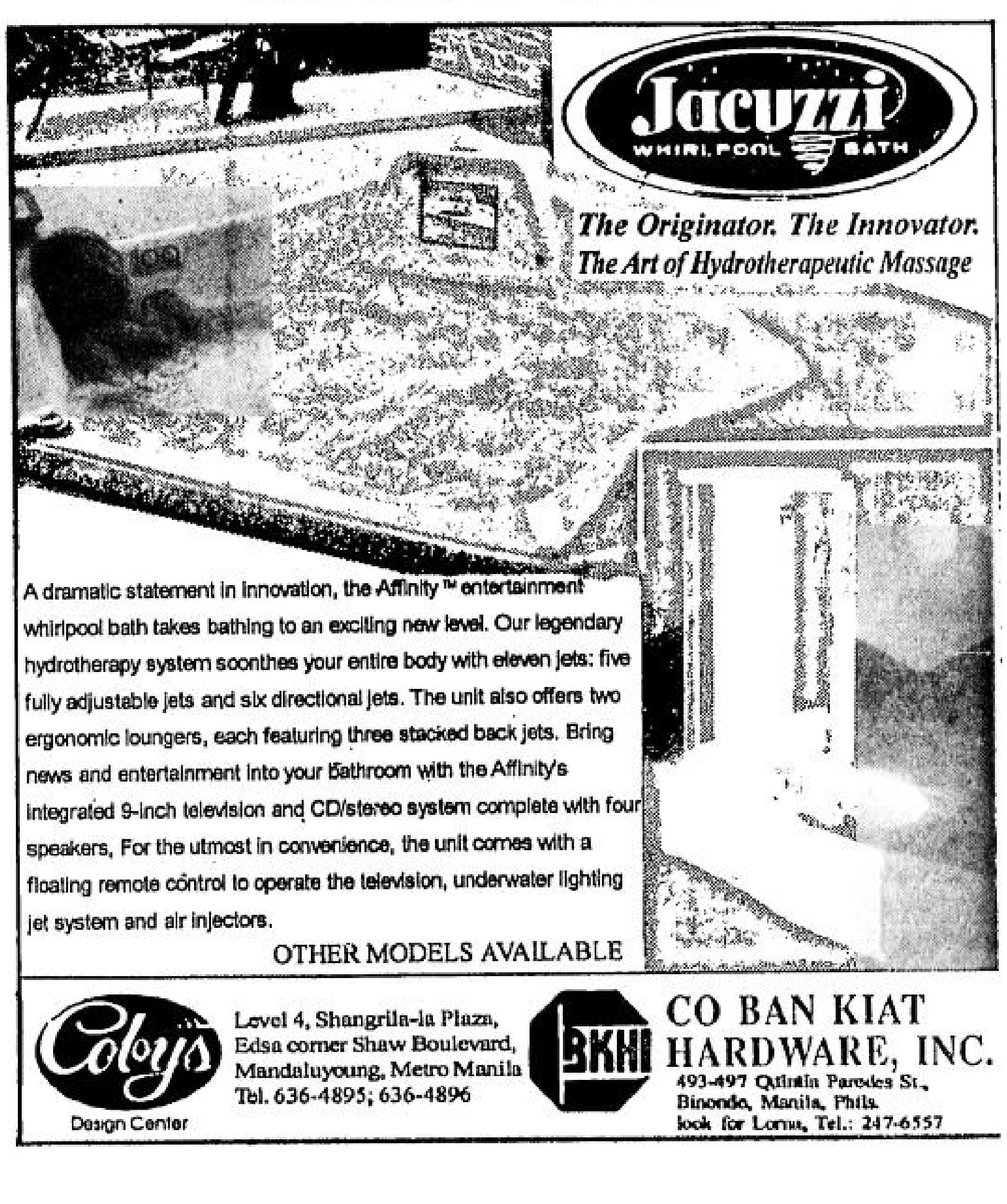
Heritage Park opens in Fort Bonifacio

FAMILIES in search of a quiet and relaxing place to reminisce and treasure the memories of their departed loved ones should look no further than The Heritage Park.

Recently opened at the heart of Fort Bonifacio, The Heritage Park features first-rate amenities spread out over 76 hectares of manicured greens and breathtaking scenery.

Unlike other memorial parks, The Heritage Park allows families and visitors to pay homage to their loved ones as well as have fun and exciting moments. At The Heritage Park, families and their friends can go fishing, thanks to a sprawling lagoon area. In the morning or late afternoon, one can bike or jog on its well-maintained streets or simply sit back and exchange spirited conversation with one another under the comfort of many trees that dot the park.

Complementing The Heritage Park's lovely amenities are its exceptional memorial services. It has a number of showrooms that feature a wide array of memorial products and flower arrangements and a room where children can play and explore their creativity through exciting activities. Instead of the traditional hearse, The Heritage Park offers a horse-drawn carriage to transport your loved ones in a more elegant and sublime fashion. For quiet moments of prayer and reflection, a chapel is also located within the premises.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Terror attacks marked end of US recession

WASHINGTON—The Sept. 11 terror attacks, which ripped a gash in the skyline of New York's financial center and shocked the economy, may have marked the end of the US recession in 2001.

"At the time we thought we had avoided recession before Sept. 11 and that the terrorist attacks were going to give us the final blow," said CDC Ixis Capital Markets economist Evariste Lefeuvre.

"But the result was the opposite." No one knew it at the time.

But revised figures released on July 31 this year showed that US gross domestic product had contracted in the first three quarters of 2001 before expanding in the fourth quarter.

If one takes the widely accepted view that a recession is defined as at least two consecutive quarters of negative growth, the US economy actually emerged from recession after the disaster.

Nevertheless, the attacks took a mighty toll on the US economy.

The New York Stock Exchange, which was showered in the rubble of the nearby twin towers of the World Trade Center, was unable to resume trade until Sept. 17.

On the day trade resumed, the blue chip Dow Jones industrials average took its steepest plunge in points, dropping 684.80 points, or 7.13 percent, to 8,920.70. *AFP*

BUT NOT UNSCATHED

World economy survived Sept. 11

LONDON—As stunned financial analysts watched New York's twin towers crumble on Sept. 11, many predicted that the terror attacks would drive an already fragile world economy into a deep recession.

In the event, massive injections of liquidity into financial markets and prompt interest rate cuts by central banks across the globe, bringing borrowing costs to their lowest for decades, helped the world's main economies avoid a prolonged slump.

The giant United States economy did flirt with recession, and worries still remain. But those are for reasons related more to the collapse of energy trader Enron and other accounting scandals than to the traumatic events of Sept. 11.

Moreover, as if to emphasize its resilience, the US economy is poised to show the strongest growth of any of the world's leading economies this year although, in truth, it is not being offered much competition at the moment.

Ian Plenderleith, the recently retired executive director of the Bank of England (BOE) who was in the thick of the action at the time, recalls the huge uncertainty facing the world's central banks in the immediate aftermath of the attacks.

"It was clearly a major economic shock as well as a huge tragedy in personal terms. No one could know how great the disruption would be. There was a danger of central banks reacting too much or too little," he told Reuters.

He said the shock came from the immediate disruption to airports and US financial markets in the first few days, the longer-term impact on industries like insurance, tourism and airlines, and then the effect on confidence more generally.

"The judgment was that there would be an impact on confidence and that we needed to take a step, monitor the situation and be ready to take further steps. In the end we did help restore confidence and the judgment has proved to be about right.

"The event had a material impact, but it was manageable."

The US Federal Reserve, which had already been cutting rates to head off an economic slowdown caused by the bursting of the bubble in technology stocks and rising oil prices, slashed its key lending rate by another 175 basis points, taking it down to just 1.75 percent.

Plenderleith and his colleagues on the BOE's Monetary Policy Committee cut rates in the world's fourth largest economy from 5 percent to 4 percent while the European Central Bank lopped another point of its main rate, taking it to 3.25 percent. They have all left their rates steady since.

"There was an immediate worldwide policy response which no doubt helped prevent the initial shock from transmitting on into second-round effects," said Mary Davis, director of Global Economics at investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston. *Reuters*

HK stocks likely to stay in doldrums

HONG KONG—Hong Kong stocks are unlikely to get much of a boost this week unless first-half earnings from the telecom sector can provide some positive news, analysts said.

With Wall Street still volatile and economic data from the United States mixed, investors will be relying on local news for a catalyst to drive the market higher.

But it is hard to see where that will come from. Hong Kong gross domestic product data, released after the market closed on Friday, showed that though the economy is pulling out of its second recession in four years, second-quarter GDP was up just 0.5 percent year-on-year as domestic demand remained weak.

"The GDP data won't help the stock market," said Ben Kwong, a director at brokers KGI Asia Ltd. "Export-led growth is not translating into a revival of local demand so investors will still be concerned about local corporate earnings."

Kwong sees the benchmark Hang Seng Index drifting into a lower trading range with support at 9,800 and upside limited to 10,300.

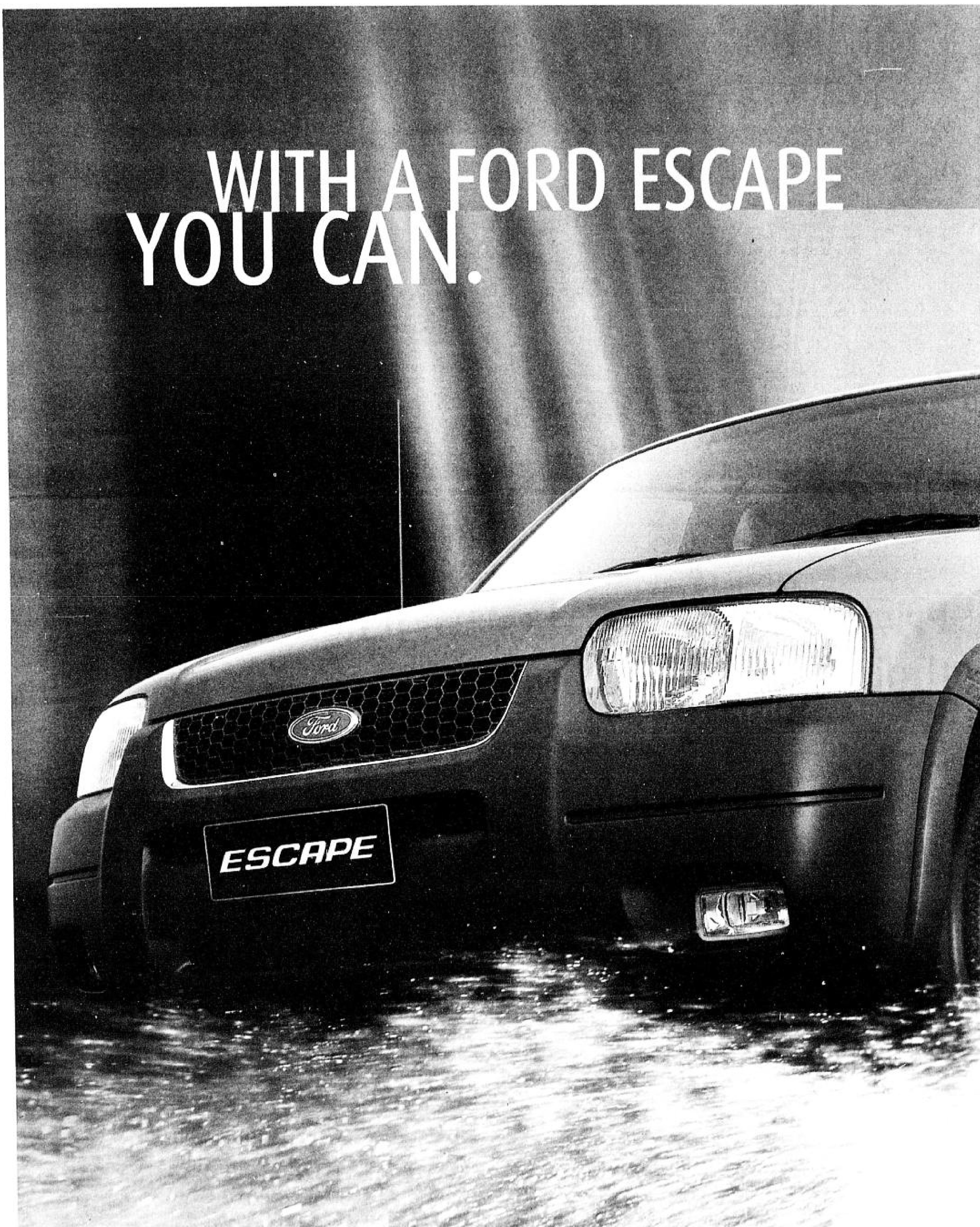
The index fell 1.97 percent last week to 10,043.87 and remains one of Asia's worst performers, having shed 11.87 percent so far this year.

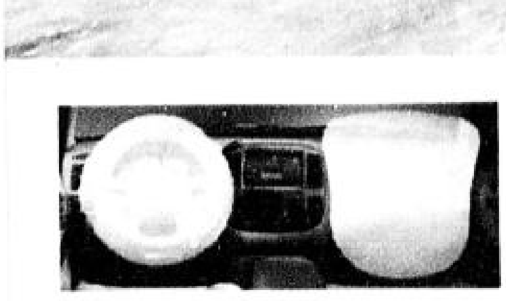
Trade is expected to be quiet early in the week with no lead from Wall Street, which was closed yesterday for Labor Day.

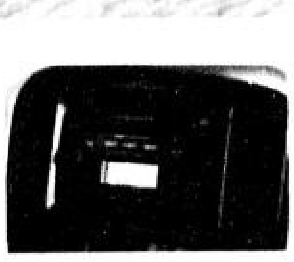
On Friday US stocks sagged in thin trade. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped 0.09 percent to 8,663.50, erasing an early boost from data showing expanding manufacturing and stabilizing consumer sentiment.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index tumbled 1.57 percent to 1,314.85 after computer maker Sun Microsystems lowered its revenue forecast and said corporate spending on technology may be weakening.

In Hong Kong, China's second biggest mobile phone operator China Unicom and dominant local fixed-line telecom company PCCW take center stage this week with both due to release first-half results on Thursday. *Reuters*







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Despite robust economic growth, analysts say Asia losing ground

SINGAPORE—Asia is on a recovery path in 2002 after the struggles of last year, but growth for some economies, like South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore, may already be slowing down.

Economists see definite signs that the region is losing momentum after robust growth in the first half of 2002.

South Korea, they say, is ahead of the curve—just as it was when the economies rallied from last year's technology-led downturn.

Economists estimate Thailand and the Philippines, both still boasting robust growth, will peak at a later stage.

The Philippines' second-quarter gross domestic product grew 4.5 percent, the fastest in five years. But the country's ballooning fiscal deficit could make private sector credit more pricey and limit the scope for any pump priming, economists say.

Thailand's main worry is how the United States, buyer of 20 percent of its exports, will fare, while a cash-strapped Indonesia is struggling with privatization and low investment.

"We are looking at a slowdown in the second half of the year, so Q2 (second quarter of 2002) is going to become the bull's eye point in Asia, the peak in demand levels," said Desmond Supple, head of research at Barclays Capital, adding comparisons with a weak second half of 2001 may provide some fillip.

"Korea has already shown signs of deceleration and is probably the lead indicator of what happens to the rest of the region," he said.

Brushing aside the 6.3-percent economic growth in the second quarter, economists point to slowing Korean industrial output, a shrinking current account surplus and reckless consumer spending as worrying signs for the credit-fueled economy.

And it's not just Korea where economists see signs of a possible cooling in economic activity.

Taiwan's index of leading indicators was flat in July and fell in June. Its M2 money supply grew at a record low pace in July and while exports are rising, they are coming off a low base of the country's worst recession in 2001.

A big worry is the threat of another recession or slow economic growth in the United States, the market for 25 to 30 percent of Asia's exports.

"I suspect that we will see weaker growth in Q4 and Q1 (2003) mainly because of a spillover from the United States and because without further strength in exports it is difficult to see investments," said Xin Xie, senior economist at Bank of America.

Reuters

China will not pursue talks with Taiwan under WTO

TAIPEI—China will not conduct business talks with Taiwan under the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework unless the "one China" issue is settled, a report said Monday.

Beijing snubbed Taipei's request for consultations after it imposed quota and tariff hikes on imported steel products but has conducted discussions with other affected countries including Japan, South Korea and Mexico.

"As long as 'one China' is unresolved, there can be no solutions to other issues. Although both sides of the Taiwan Strait are WTO members, (China) will hold consultations with Taiwan only when the basic principle is settled," China's chief WTO negotiator Long Yongtu told the United Daily News.

China has considered Taiwan part of its territory awaiting reunification since the two sides split in 1949 at the end of a civil war.

Beijing has insisted Taipei accept its "one China" priciple—that there is only China and Taiwan is an integral part—as precondition to any bilateral talks.

Taiwan's vice economic minister Chen Ruey-long has urged Beijing to carry out its obligations as a WTO member while stressing the island's right to file complaints with the world trade body.

AFP

Foreign brewers tap China giants

HONG KONG—Facing saturated markets at home, foreign brewers are rushing to team up with Chinese beer giants in a trend that could intensify an already fierce battle in China's booming but glutted beer market.

Foreign brewers hope that their Chinese counterparts' vast sales networks and relatively low production costs can help them hitch a ride on the 6-percent-a-year growth of the world's second largest beer market.

In recent months, giants from the United States, Japan and Belgium have been eyeing or buying stakes in Chinese beer makers.

Striking partnerships with big local brewers marks a departure from the last wave of foreign investment in China's beer sector, which ultimately went flat.

In the 1990s, overseas brewers set up shop by themselves or with mostly small, local producers, only to see their start-ups drowned in a sea of dirt-cheap domestic beers.

"In light of the high growth nature of the Chinese beer market, foreign brewers are streaming into China again," said Tsingtao Brewery Chair Li Guirong.

"But the current trend is that they will team up with big domestic brand names," he told reporters recently.

Chinese brewers are pursuing foreign capital and managerial know-how in efforts to remove a margin hangover and slake a thirst for funds resulting from a recent spree of acquisitions of smaller, often bankrupt breweries.

Tsingtao, China's biggest brewer, said last month it was in exclusive tie-up talks with Anheuser-Busch, the world's largest beer producer and maker of top-selling Budweiser beer.

Tsingtao has yet to disclose details of the possible deal, but it has said Anheuser-Busch would increase its stake in Tsingtao from the current 4.5 percent.

Tsingtao says the alliance is aimed at developing the Tsingtao brand, although analysts say Anheuser-Busch is eyeing development of its own brands over the long term in China.

Reuters

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Kumon education empowers the individual child

EVERY parent's goal is to secure their children's future. To achieve this, parents must take great interest in looking after their children's academic development. This is the reason more and more parents are seeking supplemental education service to make sure their children make steady progress in their mental development.

The Kumon Method of Learning not only gives students a strong educational foundation, but it also builds their self-confidence in the process. Developed in Japan over 40 years ago, Kumon is a home-based education system that aims for mastery of the student's math and reading skills. It uses math and reading as the means to develop the potential of every child.

Kumon's unique method has made a distinct difference in millions of children worldwide. Its popularity has made it a recognized leader and the largest after-school supplemental education program in the world.

Students spend about 30 minutes twice a week at the Kumon center. They also do a little work each day, spending only 15 to 30 minutes answering their worksheets at home.

Kumon believes in the potential of each child to excel given the proper materials that match his ability and rate of progress. Through daily practice and commitment to mastering each concept, they will acquire basic academic skills and become independent learners.

At present, Kumon Philippines is busy with its own set of upcoming events for this year. On Sept. 1, Kumon honored its outstanding students in its national Advanced Student's Roll (ASR) Presentation at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The ASR is a list of Kumon students who have exceeded the numeracy and literacy competencies expected of their current grade level. The top 10 students per grade level doing at least 3 levels ahead received gold medals in the ceremony. Likewise, math and reading graduates (students who have completed the whole Kumon program) and loyalty awardees (those enrolled for at least five years at Kumon) were also awarded.

From Sept. 16 to 30, Kumon will have a free 2-week trial on its math and reading programs. In these two weeks, your child will experience what it's like to be a Kumon student. But since Kumon is designed to be a long-term program of individual learning, your child should have commitment and dedication at Kumon to fully maximize the benefits of the method.

Finally, on Oct. 2, Kumon will be holding its 4th National Instructors' Conference at the New World Hotel in Makati. This year's theme is "Kumon: Committed to Benefit the Filipino Child". The keynote speaker is Nisa Vongpadungkiat, an experienced Kumon instructor from Thailand. The event is meant to help instructors learn more about tools and techniwues needed for the success of their centers.

The late founder Toru Kumon envisioned Kumon helping as many children receive the opportunity to develop their full potential. To date, there are about 3 million students in over 40 countries worldwide who are benefitting from the Kumon method.

In 1996, when Kumon started out in the Philippines, it only had a couple of centers and about 600 students. Now, Kumon has grown to approximately 120 centers with about 15,000 students, and still counting.

At the rate the Kumon population is growing, whether in number of students or centers, Kumon is clearly becoming a necessary part of a child's educational aspect and becoming one of the fastest growing industries in the years to come.

Take advantage now of Kumon's free trial from Sept. 16 to 30 at all Kumon centers. For details, call Kumon at 885-0226.

JITSE-PHIL JOINS ELEARNING CONFAB

The Japanese Information Technology Standard Examination of the Philippines (Jitse-Phil) Foundation recently participated in the 1st National Conference on eLearning dubbed 'eLearning in a Knowledge-Based Society' organized by the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (Itecc). Jitse-Phil Foundation put up a booth to accommodate inquiries and applications for the upcoming Jitse-Phil certification exam on Sept. 8. Among those who came to visit the booth were (from left) Renato C. Valencia, vice president of Asia Pacific Network Holdings Inc., Augusto Lagman, co-chair of Itecc human resources department committee, Maricor Akol (5th from left), president of Jiste-Phil Foundation, Virgilio Pena, presidential assistant of ICT and executive director of Itecc, Dante Liban, Tesda director general, Shinichiro Kato, Jitse-Phil Foundation vice president for finance, Cristina Padolina, CHED Commissioner and Boogie Boydon, president of the Philippine Society of IT Educators (Psite). Jitse-Phil is a globally recognized IT certification exam that aims to help Filipino IT students and professionals build and establish employment in Japanese firms here and abroad.

Motorex
The Total Philippine Transport Show
Land, Sea and Air
Sept. 7 - 15, 2002
Harrison Plaza Annex
Exact

MOTOREX EXHIBIT VENUE

Motorex, the total Philippine transport show, is bringing together for the first time under one roof the latest equipment, accessories, allied products and services in land, air and sea transport from Sept. 7 to 15. Event organizer Exhibits in Action Corp. (Exact) recently signed an agreement with Belco Marketing for the use of the New Harrison Plaza Annex in Manila as exhibit venue. Shown, seated, are Belco Marketing president Salvador Clemente and Exact president Ecol Asuncion. Standing, from left, are Exact VP for operations Ben V. Mangiliman, VP for sales Jing Modino, and VP for marketing Teri E. Teruel.

DEP CONTRACT SIGNING

Stage, TV and movie actor Raymond Bagatsing has been recently named image model for Dep Styling Gels. Dep recently introduced two new hair formulations—the Dep Botanicals and the Dep Sport 2-in-1 anti-dandruff and styling gels. Shown at the contract signing are, seated, from left, Cris Aquino, president of Henkel Philippines Inc., Bagatsing, and Elsie Trias, division manager of Henkel Philippines. Standing, from left, are Francis O. Villacorta, Raymond's manager, Faye Valencia, Dep product manager, and Marivic Gonzales, vice president of Caballero Worldwide Partners.

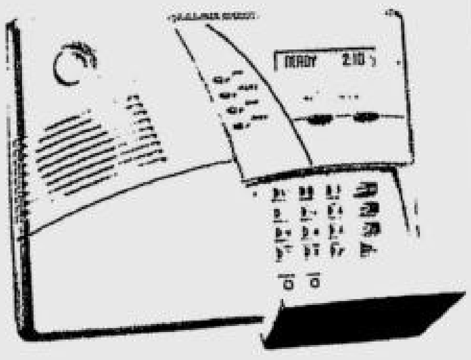
Nestle's bev program at expo

NESTLE Foodservices highlights its beverage program at AsiaFood Expo 2002, the 11th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology from Sept. 4 to 7 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. The beverage program caters to all types of foodservice accounts. In addition, Nestle Foodservices will launch Nescafe Cool and Nestle Lemonade. Nestle Lemonade is the answer to the growing demand for healthier beverages, while Nescafe Cool is the response to the coffee craze. Nestle will also sponsor beverages for the exhibitors and visitors of AsiaFood Expo 2002.

Product FILES

Security, automation in one system

TODAY'S lifestyle demands an extra eye for security and technology. Whether at home or in the office, you need a security system that would effectively alert you of intrusion, and at the same time help you do things easy through automation, like turning the lights and air-conditioning system on or off even while you're away.



A single wireless device can do both. Powermax, the breakthrough security system from Visonic Ltd. of Tel Aviv, Israel, the world's leading manufacturer of high-tech security systems, is equipped to protect and automate your home or office.

Powermax can trigger an alarm when intrusion occurs or when smoke is detected in your property. It can report the activity of an elderly or sick person left at home, and it calls you when your child has arrived from school.

It can be programmed to turn your air-conditioning system in preparation for your arrival. It can also switch on other systems, such as your lights and other appliances.

Powermax responds to commands via keypads, keyfob or telephone, and allows you to talk or listen to someone within the system's covered area.

It also allows you to record and leave messages. Its unique Follow Me feature calls your phone in cases of emergencies.

Powermax is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Sequtech Corp. For inquiries and free product demos, call 845-3444.

Neoart joins Home & Garden Asia 2002

ONE of the world's premier manufacturers of antique reproduction furniture accessories, and theme decors has confirmed its participation in Home & Garden Asia 2002 slated for Sept. 19 to 21 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

Neoart Corp., which also produces customized items for American films outfits and other companies, among them Walt Disney, Warner Brothers and Pepsi Cola, will exhibit top-of-the-line products. Neoart products are mostly exported to the United States, Canada, Germany, France, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Spain, Japan, Korea and Australia.

Covered and protected by international property rights, Neoart products have unique designs and craftsmanship that will enhance the interiors of any home and commercial establishment.

With its main plant and office in Angeles City, Neoart has transformed itself into a dynamic multinational company providing livelihoods to thousands of skilled workers and a market for various cottage industries that have sprouted in nearby communities.

Neoart lends prestige to Home & Garden Asia 2002, one of Asia's extensive marketplaces and venues for specialty retailers and wholesalers, home furnishings, boutiques, gourmet and gift stores and mass market retailers.

Organized by H&G International, a division of Leverage International, Home & Garden 2002 is supportted by the US Commercial Service, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Philippine Horticulture Society, Philippine Bonsai Society and the Philippine Orchid Society.

Interested parties still have time to join the trade show. For inquiries, call Beth Cruz at 818-6828 and 813-2473, or Robert Sanchez at 813-2472 and 810-1389.

BITS & Clips

UP scholars launch works

SCHOLARS from the University of the Philippines Diliman will launch four books that will add to existing literature on folk theater, poverty alleviation policies, abortion, and the writings of Jose Rizal. These books, published by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Development (OVCRD), are "Studies in Pre-War Sugbuanon Theatre" by Wilhemina A. Ramas, "Readings in Governance of Poverty Alleviation" by Victoria A. Bautista, "May Gawa na Kaming Natapus Dini: Si Rizal at ang Wikang Tagalog" by Nilo S. Ocampo, and "Unsafe Abortion in the Philippines: A Threat to Public Health" by Corazon Raymundo, Zelda Zablan, Josefina Cabigon, Grace Cruz, and Clarinda Berja. The books will be presented to the public today at 3 p.m. at the OVCRD Auditorium, lower ground floor, Phivolcs Building, CP Garcia Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Call 927-2567, 927-2568 or 920-5301 for more information.

Landmark forum in Manila

THE LANDMARK Education Corp. will be conducting its Landmark Forum in Manila on Sept. 13, 14, 15 and 17 at Room 527, De La Salle MBA School, RCBC Plaza Building, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City. One of the world's most widely-acclaimed personal development programs, the forum promises to produce breakthrough results and bring about positive and permanent changes in the quality of people's lives in three days and one evening. A free introduction will be held today at Function Room 2 of Assumption College in San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. Interested parties can call Evelyn Co-Unjieng at 722-4573 or 723-9079.

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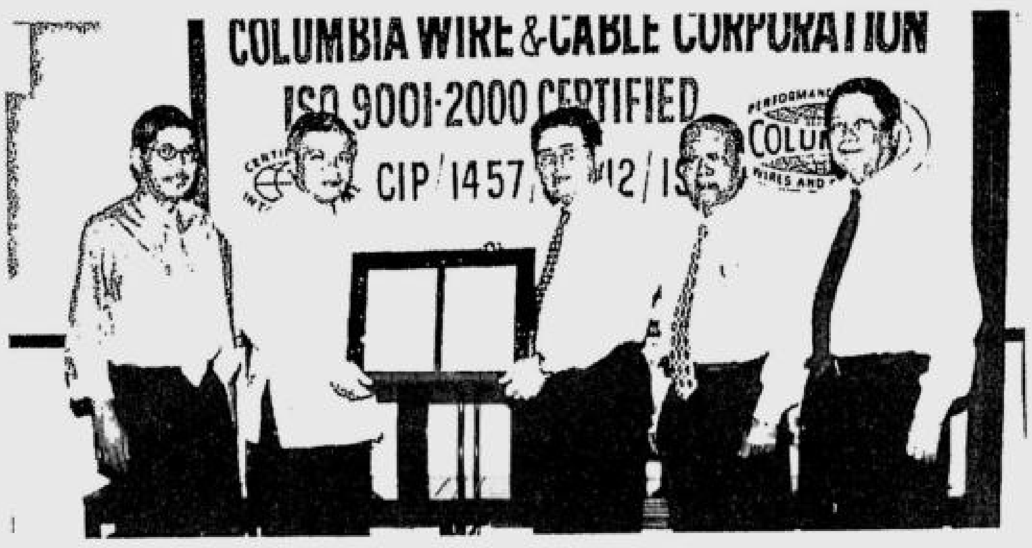
MTP OF US SETS TRAINING

Sharlet McClurkin (left, with Don McClurkin), president of Montessori Teacher Preparation of Washington (MTP of WA) and current president of Montessori Institute of America (MIA), is conducting an onsite training for its Level 3-6 (full certification) Course from Sept. 9 to 12 at 8 Pittsburgh Street, Cubao, Quezon City. MTP of WA offers limited internship to the United States. Those interested but unable to attend the scheduled onsite training on the said date can start the program anytime. Call 421-3647 or 437-1914 for arrangements. For more information or requests for catalogues, write to MTP of the US, UPPO Box 184, QC 1104.



CWCC UPDATES ISO CERTIFICATION

Columbia Wire and Cable Corp., one of the leading local electric wire and cable manufacturers, completed the mandated update of ISO 9001-2000 certification requirement ahead of the government-imposed deadline—a testimonial to its unwavering commitment of producing world-class electric wires and cables Filipino consumers deserve. Shown receiving the certificate from Renato Navarrete (2nd from left), managing director of Certification International, is engineer Antonio Herrera (center), general manager of Columbia Electric Wire and Cable Corp. Witnessing the awards ceremony are (from left) Marciano Geronimo Jr., VP for manufacturing of CWCC, engineer Alberto Robledo, quality control division head of CWCC, and Ricardo Realizo, marketing executive of CWCC.

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RITEMED MAKES A MARK AT I-MART

RiteMed fulfills one of its core values of being 'physically available' or present everywhere through a symbolic turnover of RiteMed products by its operations manager Raffy Los Banos (right) and I-Mart president Raymond T. Co (left). Witnessing the turnover are (from left) I-Mart's VP for marketing Jose C. Ang Jr., VP for operations Larry M. Gaveria and executive VP James A. Sandoval. From RiteMed are (from right) Edwin Nicholas and Roen de Leon, regional business manager and assistant product manager, respectively. RiteMed products will be made available in all I-Mart branches.

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3. The contract shall be for one (1) year and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.
4. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by calling or faxing the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of the Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines at Tel. Nos. 632-5641, 632-4231, Fax No. 636-2567 and e-mail addresses: adjusupbekova@adb.org or dmuñoz@adb.org from **4-10 September 2002 (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)** The documents are available are available for a non-refundable fee of Pesos Three Hundred (P300.00).
5. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail to:

   Head, Contracts Section
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   not later than **3 October 2002**, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Document Conversion Services. Contract No. ADB/OAS-2002/035".
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and to reply only to the companies, which are considered by ADB to be prequalified.

(Sgd.) **NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN**
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INVITATION TO BID
SPUG-MMSS-02-0017

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, 2nd Flr. Training Center Bldg., BIR Road Cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	OPENING DATE	TIME
PB020919 - PDVB1251	SPARE PARTS FOR IHI-BBC EXHAUST GAS TURBOCHARGER	PREBID: 09/13/02 OPEN: 9/19/02	02:00 PM 02:00 PM
PB020918 - PDVB1252	VARIOUS SPARE PARTS FOR MAN ENGINE	PREBID: 09/11/02 OPEN: 09/18/02	10:00 AM 10:00 AM
PB020923-PDAMI215(PB2)	VARIOUS TEST INSTRUMENTS	SEPT. 9, 2002	10:00 AM

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **SEPTEMBER 3, 2002** upon payment of P 100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between **8:00 to 11:30 AM** only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI—Sept. 3, 2002)

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GARDEN OF MEMORIES LIFE PLAN

Per the latest reports of our Actuary and Trustee Bank, MetroBank, our Trust Fund isn't just sufficient to meet our obligations to our plan-holders, we actually have a **28% SURPLUS**.

Actuarial

On July 31, 2002, a Valuation Certification by a SEC-accredited Actuary, Leopoldo S. Belon, showed that the liabilities of Garden of Memories Memorial Park and Life Plan, Inc., mostly commitments to our plan-holders, amounted to P31,966,025.00.

Trustee Bank Reports

Then MetroBank, our Trustee Bank, certified that as of July 31, 2002, that the Trust Account of Garden of Memories Memorial Park and Life Plan, Inc., had a total principal fund balance of P40,907,934.78.

That's an impressive **27.97% over and above** our financial commitments to the Garden of Memories Life Plan-holders. Up from a **16.55% surplus** as of December 31, 2001!

CERTIFICATION

Please be informed that I have undertaken Actuarial Valuation of the Life Plan Trust Fund of Garden of Memories Memorial Park and Life Plan, Inc., as of **July 31, 2002**.

I hereby certify that the actuarial formulations used in this actuarial valuation are in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices, existing laws, and rules and regulations of the SEC.

The **reserve liabilities** have an aggregate total of: **PESOS : Thirty-One Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Twenty-Five & 0/100** only **(PHP31,966,025.00)**.

Issued on August 27, 2002.

(Sgd.) **LEOPOLDO S. BELON**
Actuary, FASP

Certification

METROBANK METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the Trust Account of Garden of Memories Memorial Park and Life Plan, Inc., under Trust Acct. No. 11010000193, as of **July 31, 2002**, amounted to: **PESOS: Forty Million Nine Hundred Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Four & 78/100** only **(PHP40,907,934.78)**; **95.75%** of which are invested **in government securities** and **4.25% in savings deposit**.

This certification is issued upon the request of Garden of Memories Memorial Park & Life Plan, Inc.

Issued on August 30, 2002.

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
TRUST BANKING GROUP

JOSEFINA E. SULIT
Executive Vice President

"All-in-One" Life Plan

Only Garden of Memories Life Plan owns and operates virtually all the facilities and services needed in a memorial package. From a memorial park to a mortuary to memorial chapels to a life plan.

The system was designed to ease the needs of bereaved families. Usually, in a state of stress and confusion, they have to negotiate with several establishments. Now there's Garden of Memories -- the only "one-stop, all-in-one" memorial company. The bereaved need no longer talk with more than just one firm. We take care of everything -- down to the smallest detail.

Model for All Life Plans

When Garden of Memories Life Plan was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1995, then SEC Chairman Rosario N. Lopez remarked: "Your company should be the model for all life plans. Yours is the only one with its own mortuary and memorial chapels, guaranteeing the delivery of all the services in the contract."

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We Lovingly Remember

on the First Death Anniversary
of our dear "Daddy"

AGAPITO G. TAGAYSAY

who peacefully passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on September 4, 2001

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow,
Wednesday, September 4, 2002 at the following churches:

Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Libis, Quezon City	6:30 AM & 5:30 PM
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Project 4, Quezon City	6:00 AM & 6:30 PM
Cenacle Retreat House, Loyola Heights, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Sta. Maria Della Strada, Katipunan Road, Quezon City	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Cubao, Quezon City	6:00 AM & 7:00 PM
St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City	6:30 AM, 12:15 PM & 5:15 PM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 AM & 7:15 PM
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (EDSA Shrine)	6:30 AM, 12:15 PM & 5:30 PM
Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez, Sr., Quezon City	6:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City	6:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Santuario de San Antonio - Friary, Forbes Park, Makati	6:15 AM, 12:15 PM & 6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, SAV, Makati	7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
St. Stanislaus Kostka Chapel, Ateneo H.S. Dept., Quezon City	7:10 AM
Ateneo Professional Schools Chapel, Rockwell Center	12:15 PM
San Fernando de Dilao Church, Paco, Manila	5:45 AM & 6:30 PM
Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Hulo, Mandaluyong City	6:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Shrine of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 AM & 6:30 PM
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	8:00 AM, 12:15 PM & 6:00 PM
Sta. Cruz Parish Church, Sta. Cruz, Manila	6:30 AM, 1:00 PM & 6:15 PM
National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran	5:30 AM
Parish of St. Paul the First Hermit, San Pablo City, Laguna	6:15 AM & 6:00 PM
San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental	5:00 PM
San Sebastian Cathedral, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 5:15 PM
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Jaro, Iloilo City	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
St. Anthony de Padua Church, West Orange, New Jersey, U.S.A.	9:00 AM
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Rancho Cucamonga, Ca., U.S.A.	7:00 AM
Le Petit Couvent Chapel, Lourdes, France	8:00 AM

We, his children request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

We thank the Lord for our dearest

"Abet"
Alberto Guinto Calinisan

Who peacefully joined Him on August 29, 2002 at the age of 44.

We, wife **Tersie**; son **Jed**; mother **Bining**; sisters and brothers **Celia** and **Tito Javier**, **Concordia** and **Joselito Rescober**, **Alfredo Jr.** and **Armie Calinisan**, **Andy** and **Maricel Calinisan**, request all pious readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at his residence in 127 Aniban, Bacoor, Cavite. Telephone No. (046) 417-2130.

Interment is on Thursday, September 5, 2002 at Silangan Memorial after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

"From darkness let the light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

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Our Dearly Beloved

DR. VIRISIMO Q. OPINIANO

peacefully joined his Creator on August 29, 2002 at the age of 76.

His children **Alvin & Liza**, **Albert**, **Kett & Babe**, **Alex**, **Avit & Loida**, **Alfred & Vangie**, **Andrew**, **Aytoy**, **Aleta & Mario** and grandchildren request their friends to remember Daddy in their prayers.

His remains lie in state at their ancestral house in Pastrana, Leyte. Interment will be on September 6, 2002 at the OPINIANO ETERNAL GARDEN after the 9 A.M. mass.

Ronald O. Reyes

of Pangilinan Comp., Proj. 6, QC

Peacefully joined our Lord on Sept. 2, 2002 at the age of 49.

His loving wife **Tina** and son **Carlo**; parents **Romy & Blanding**; brothers & sisters **Noel & Gina**, **Gilbert & Lina**, **Nanette & Art**, **Grace & Rolly**; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Nicholas de Tolentino Church (near Cherry Foodarama), Congressional Ave., Proj. 6, QC.

TELLIS ANATOLE CHUA SY

of UE Subdivision, Malabon

Peacefully joined His Creator on September 1, 2002 at the age of 33.

His beloved wife **Maybel Sy**; brother **Allan Sy**; sisters **Excell**, **Kimshiek**; sister-in-law **Elojah**; in-laws, children, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel C-10, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, September 6, 2002 at Funeraria Paz, Crematorium at 10:00 a.m.

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JOSE ALVAREZ ROÑO

March 19, 1923 - August 30, 2002

We bid you farewell, **Peping**.

We unite ourselves to his loving wife **Carol** (**Inday Ning** to us) and their children in their grief, prayers and hope of seeing him again in our Heavenly home. With them, we ask the pious readers to pray for his soul.

The Sarmiento family and the in-laws

Sil and **Linda**, **Dodong & Nancy**, (†) **Alex Fider** and **Mila (Daday)**, **Philip (Toto)** and **Celia**, **Archie (Undoy)** and **Nena**, **Nonoy** and **Becky**, **Ramon Sarmiento** and **Babs**, **Nick (Tit)** and **Marilyn**, (†) **Titing** and **Perla**, **Jake** and **Nene** and **Sister Cornelie, S.P.C.**

SECRETARY JOSE D. LINA, JR.
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

condole with the family, relatives and friends of

JOSE "PEPING" ALVAREZ ROÑO

Former Secretary (1973-1986)
(DLGCD / MLGCD / MLG)
Former Deputy Prime Minister
Former Assemblyman, Batasang Pambansa (1978-1984)
Former Congressman, First District of Samar
Former Governor, Province of Samar
and Former City Mayor, Calbayog City

who died on August 30, 2002

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Everybody is requested to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

> *"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."*
> JOHN 12:24

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
EAGLE CREST VILLAS
Bakakeng Road, Baguio City

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following lots at Eagle Crest Villas located at Bakakeng Road, Baguio City are acquired assets of the Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC). Thus, all concerned buyers with previous transactions with the Viva Eagle Land, Inc. (VIVE)/First La Paloma Properties (FLPP) are advised to visit HGC at the 2nd Flr. Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City or HGC's Baguio Regional Office located at 2nd Floor, Insular Life Bldg. Abanao Extension Road, Baguio City to present their sales documents, official receipts and other proofs of payment made to VIVE or FLPP and manifest their intention to pursue or cancel the purchase of the following lots:

PHASE	BLK. NO.	LOT NOS.
I	2 A	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 & 15, 17 to 24, 27, 28 & 36
	7	9 to 13, 16 to 19, 20 to 30 & 18
	8	6, 17 to 20, 22 & 23
II	1	1A to 13A, 1B to 13B, 14 to 17 & 18A to 18Q
	3	2 (2A & 2B)
	4	2, 3 & 4
	5	3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 & 12 to 20
	6	3, 5 to 11 & 13 to 24
	7	3, 15C & 16A
III	2	16 to 22
	3	2 to 20
	4	1 to 31
	5	1 to 12
	6	1 to 7 & 9 to 13
	7	3 to 22
	8	14
	9	19 & 21
	10	1 to 24
	11	2, 3 (1A to 5A), 4 to 9, 11, 17 to 19 & 30 to 32
	12	13
	13	1, 2, 7, 10 & 12 to 14

If the concerned buyers fail to see us and present the required documents within fifteen (15) days from date of this publication, HGC shall declare the above properties open for sale to other interested parties.

For more inquiries, please contact Gloria C. Concepcion or Nemia Mabulay at Tel. No. 897-3217.

(Sgd.) CORAZON N. ABANGAN
Vice President
Project Management & Acquired Assets Disposition Group

(PDI - Sept 3 & 10 2002)

National Power Corporation
SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP

INVITATION TO BID
SPUG-MMSS-02-0018

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, 2nd Flr. Training Center Bldg., BIR Road Cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	OPENING DATE	TIME
PB020515 - PDAM11030(PB3)	SECURITY SERVICES	PREBID: 09/09/02 OPEN: 9/16/02	02:00 PM 01:00 PM

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **SEPTEMBER 3, 2002** upon payment of P 1,000.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between **8:00 to 11:30 AM** only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI--Sept. 3, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

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Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of various office supplies to:

3) Branches and Offices of the Clerks and Court of the Regional Trial Courts and Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region;

4) Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Court, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, Shari'a District Courts and Shari'a Circuit Courts in the different provinces and cities in the country.

Bids of pre-qualified bidders will be received by the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Taft Avenue, Manila before **2:00 p.m. on September 25, 2002**. At said time and date, sealed quotations submitted will be opened publicly by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the participating bidders and/or representatives at the **4th Floor, Multi-purpose Bldg., Supreme Court.**

Interested suppliers/dealers **who have not previously pre-qualified during the year 2002** may obtain the necessary pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, which should be submitted **on September 18, 2002 at 2:00 p.m., 4th Floor, Multi-purpose Bldg**. A Pre-bid Conference of a qualified bidders will be held **on September 20, 2002 at the same time and place.** Only bids of pre-qualified bidders will be entertained at the time of bidding.

Proposal forms, Terms and Conditions and list of office supplies subject of this particular bidding will be furnished to pre-qualified bidders, after payment of a non-refundable **P200.00** fee.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

September 2, 2002.

JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman

By:

(Sgd.) FELIPA BORLONGAN-ANAMA
Vice-Chairperson
Committee on Bids

(PDI - Sept. 3, 2002)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
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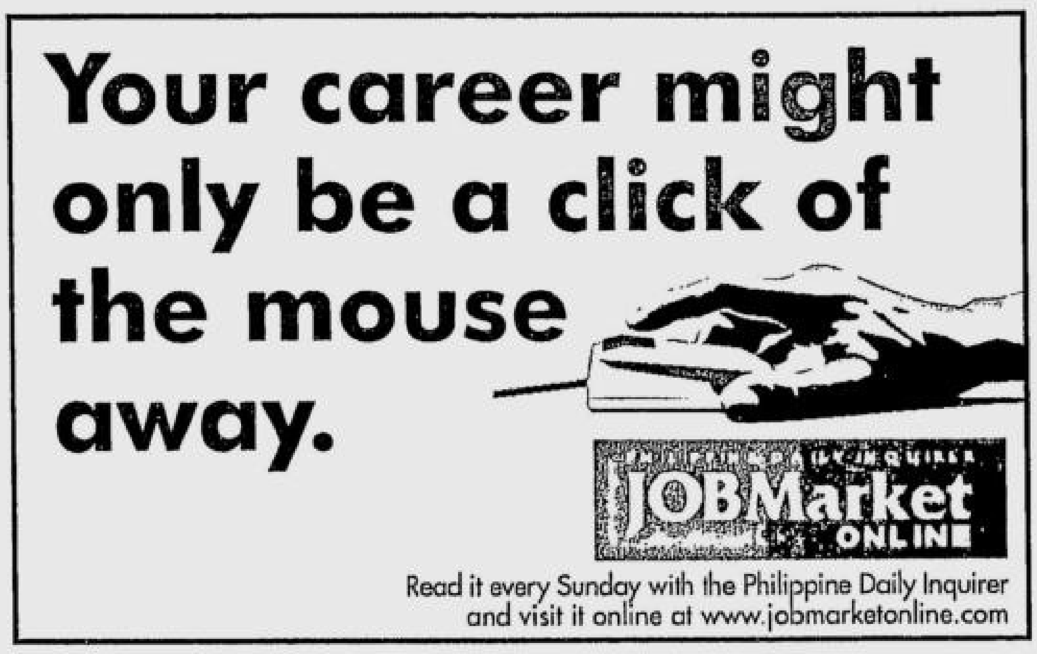
INVITATION FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LETTER OF INTENT

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. is upgrading their Billing System to comply with RA 9136 on Unbundling of Rates.

Interested software companies are invited to submit their Letter of Intent to present their proposals not later than September 9, 2002 at Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc., Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913.

(Sgd.) RENATO A. BALINTEC
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 2 & 3, 2002)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BUSINESS

New round of fuel price increases seen

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMER welfare advocate Raul Concepcion said yesterday local prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene were expected to go up by 39 centavos a liter due to an increase in Dubai crude prices and the depreciation of the peso.

Concepcion, who chairs the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said he had asked oil companies to shelve their price adjustments until the second half of September.

But Fernando Martinez, chair of Eastern Petroleum Corp., said prices could go up by 35 to 45 centavos a liter by weekend.

Virginia Ruivivar, corporate communications manager of Petron Corp., said changes in average Dubai crude prices and the foreign exchange rate could lead to an increase of 42 centavos a liter.

Ruivivar, however, said in an interview that Petron was still evaluating the possibility of a price increase.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. spokesperson Robert Kanapi said in a telephone interview the firm had no plans to change its prices yet.

He said the industry would be watchful of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' meeting on Sept. 19.

Opec is expected to maintain current levels of production despite reports that Saudi Arabia would campaign for an increase in daily output.

Concepcion said Dubai crude prices went up by 57 cents from $24.67 a barrel in July to $25.2 in August.

The peso, meanwhile, depreciated by 1.20 from 50.62 to a dollar in July to 51.82 last month.

As a rule, local prices would go up by 35 centavos a liter for every dollar increase in Dubai crude prices. Prices will also increase by 18 centavos for every peso lost to the dollar.

The last time the oil companies hiked prices was on Aug. 11 at 30 centavos a liter.

Prices of liquefied petroleum gas also increased by 80 centavos a kilo, bringing retail prices of an 11-kilogram cylinder to the P238 to P253 range.

Concepcion said prices of basic goods and transport fares were expected to remain at present levels despite the projected oil price increases.

He said the average price of diesel could reach P14.53 a liter, 28 centavos higher than the P14.25 benchmark price in October 2000—the last time the government allowed increases in transport fares.

"(But) there was no rollback in fares when diesel prices dropped last year resulting in cumulative monthly over-recoveries by the transport sector," he said.

₱7-B BIR shortfall seen

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said yesterday that its collections last month fell short of its target by nearly P7 billion, further dimming the government's chances of keeping its budget deficit below P130 billion.

Preliminary numbers released by new BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno showed that the bureau only collected P30.047 billion in August against a target of P37 billion.

Parayno, who took his oath only on Friday, stressed, however, that tax collections last month were still higher by 5 percent compared with P28.557 billion during the same period last year.

Despite the poor numbers, the government's economic team said it was still keeping its P130-billion "fighting target" for the year.

T-bill yields up; BTr opens tap facility

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BENCHMARK 91-day Treasury bill rate, used by banks in setting their lending rates, rose 22.5 basis points to 5.203 percent in yesterday's auction after staying within the 4-percent level since April 15.

The yield on the 182-day debt papers also rose 33.5 basis points to 6.186 percent breaching the 6-percent level. The Bureau of Treasury rejected all offers for the one-year T-bills in a bid to thwart efforts to also jack up the rate on the longer-term debt paper.

Had the government accepted the bids for the one-year instruments, the rate would have gone up by 1.59 percentage points to 7.592 percent.

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho, however, said the government was not worried by the uptick in the auction rates of Treasury bills and that it should not be a cause of concern for the market.

"It should not be a cause of concern," Camacho told reporters at an economic briefing, adding that the rates were still low when viewed over the medium-term.

However, with only P4.77 billion, or about half the P9 billion worth of securities offered, raised in yesterday's auction, the Bureau of Treasury decided to open a tap facility worth P2 billion for the benchmark 91-day bills.

Debt market traders interpreted the move as an indication that Manila still needed some funds.

In a letter to traders, the BTr said it would sell the bills at 5 percent.

"The opening of the tap facility means the Treasury still needs more money after it rejected part of the 182-day bids and all the offers for 364-day bills," a trader said.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the auction committee allowed the yields on the three-and six-month debt papers to align with prevailing market rates. He, however, said that that he would not allow the 91-day T-bill rate to go over 5.5 percent in the next auction. ***With reports from Reuters***

Pre-need firms question new SEC rules

THE PHILIPPINE Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. is questioning some of the new rules imposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission on the industry as contained in three circulars issued in June this year.

"The federation is asking the SEC to further discuss the implications of these rules," PFPPCI director Emmanuel Ridad told reporters yesterday.

The SEC on June 27 issued circulars 6, 7 and 8, which provided the standards for the valuation of actuarial reserve liabilities, required certain information accompanying an actuarial report, and defined the responsibilities of actuaries, respectively.

In particular, the federation wants to take up the cap imposed by the SEC on the interest rate assumption that an accredited actuary or statistical expert should use in estimating a pre-need company's liabilities to plan holders.

Under circular 6, the interest rate assumption should be reflective of expenses and taxes incurred on the investments but it should not exceed 80 percent of the average interest rate on long-term government securities in the previous three months.

There has been criticism that because some pre-need companies were using high interest rate assumptions, they were effectively understating their liabilities and consequently not properly reflecting the adequacy or inadequacy of their trust fund.

Ridad said the federation had sought clarification from the SEC on the basis of the interest assumption cap.

"Why the last three months, why not six months or one year?" Ridad said.

"We like strong regulations but we have to have the right kind of regulation," the federation director added.

If the projected liabilities of a pre-need company were based on unrealistic or overly optimistic assumptions, the trust fund would likely fall short of the claims of plan holders.

Elena R. Torrijos

Banks decide where pre-need trust funds go

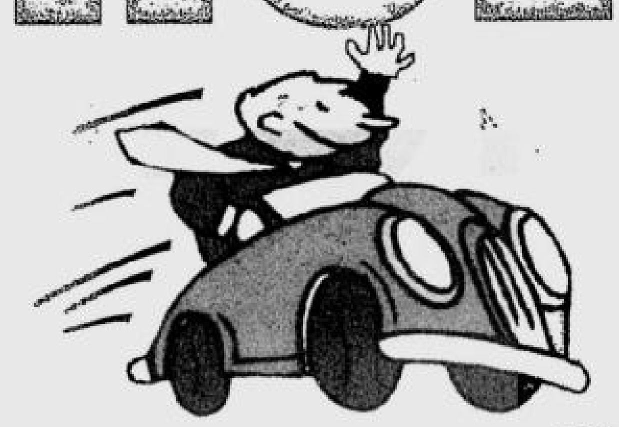
OFFICIALS of three big banks have informed the Senate that they make independent decisions where and when to invest the trust funds—now totaling P37 billion—they hold for their pre-need company clients.

Executives of Bank of the Philippine Islands, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., and Allied Banking Corp. told a Senate hearing that their clients could not dictate upon them, although some could give suggestions that the banks were free to adopt or ignore.

They said they were following an investment mix that capped how much of the trust funds could be placed in government securities and properties, for instance, and were calibrating their investments according to the needs of their clients for cash to meet maturing plans as in the enrollment season.

The bankers were invited to the Senate hearing meant to help lawmakers craft a bill that would govern the industry and strengthen it for the protection of planholders.

Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies president Miguel Vazquez asked the Senate to pass a bill that would guide regulators and give them ample flexibility in overseeing the industry, which has so much room for growth.



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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

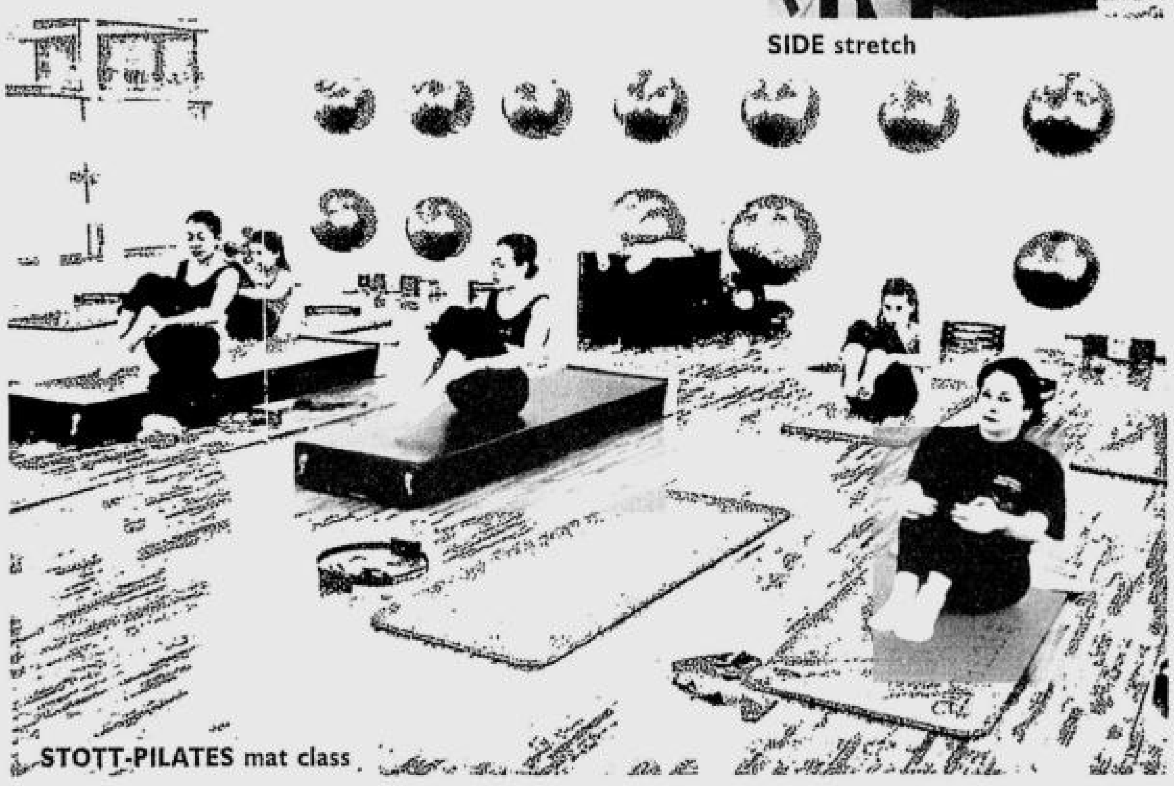
LONG spine exercise on the reformer (abs, global muscles, hamstring quadriceps, back muscles)

Spine-tingling exercises

Two women's passion for Joseph Pilates' teachings inspired them to put up a fitness studio

SIDE stretch

ROLL-UPS for abs, hip flexors and chest (mat exercise)



STOTT-PILATES mat class

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

THREE men were responsible for bringing these two young women together. The husbands of Carmen Jimenez Ong and Stella Gemperle Aguila were longtime friends before the two women met and discovered that they shared a passion for the teachings of the late German athlete Joseph Pilates.

"Actually, Carmen couldn't get a slot in the class that I was in so eventually, we decided to put up our own studio!" Aguila explains.

B + B Studio is the first fully equipped Stott-Pilates studio in the Philippines. Located in Fort Bonifacio, it boasts of the best machines and instructors who have intensively trained in the Stott Method, which is the contemporary approach to Pilates.

Ong calls it an intelligent exercise. "We've been taught, through our intensive training in human anatomy and postural analysis, how to give a proper program for each client, address one's issues and needs... be it in a private session (called privates) or group setting (mat classes). Each client is unique so we tailor the exercises to his needs," she explains.

The exercises, Aguila adds, "strengthen the muscles that are usually weak. We also work to strengthen the health of the spine without the stress of jarring exercises."

The original Pilates method, which is also more popularly known as the New York method, has been preserved by Moira Stott, a former dancer and practitioner of the Pilates method who modified Pilates' original teachings.

"By taking the teachings of Pilates and updating them to include what we now know about the body and how it works, we can offer a highly effective and safe exercise regimen," Stott said in an interview with American Fitness magazine.

Take the spine, for example. Pilates originally worked his clients in "flat back." His ultimate goal for perfect posture was a flat spine. He considered the spine abnormal.

"For many decades, medical research has proven that the curve of the spine is not only natural, but also helps the human body absorb shock and function effectively. Thus, strengthening the back is preserving its curves in its ideal, neutral alignment. Through the Stott Method, you work toward this goal for a healthy body," Aguila explains.

Refreshing feeling

The clients who come to the studio range in age from 17 to 85 (National Artist for Dance Leonor Orosa-Goquinco).

Stott-Pilates students vary from senior citizens with injuries to young women who wish to strengthen their muscles to middle-aged mothers who desire flat abs. The Stott-Pilates exercises, after all, build tremendous abdominal and back strength. They also rebalance the muscles around the joints.

"We usually get injured because we are out of balance and when we're out of balance, we tend to overwork our muscles," Aguila explains.

The Stott-Pilates method also offers stress relief and focuses on proper breathing and smooth motions, making the participant feel refreshed rather than exhausted.

Don't let those contraptions daunt you. The instructors at B + B guide you every step of the way and make sure that you do the exercises properly. Plus, the machines are really there to make each gentle movement strengthen the right muscle.

Although there are many reasons one should take the Stott-Pilates method, Ong and Aguila cite the best five so that people will seriously consider taking either privates or mat classes. "Actually, the ideal way to go would be to perfect the moves under a one-on-one or privates class. If you already know the movements and have the confidence, you can move onto the mat classes," Ong explains. Admittedly, it is the other way around, where people attend the mat classes first then the private sessions.

The first reason one should take this method, Ong says, is that it flattens, tones and

SPINE-TINGLING/ p.C3

PASSION FOR PILATES. Stella Aguila with husband Andy, and Carmen Ong with husband Jay

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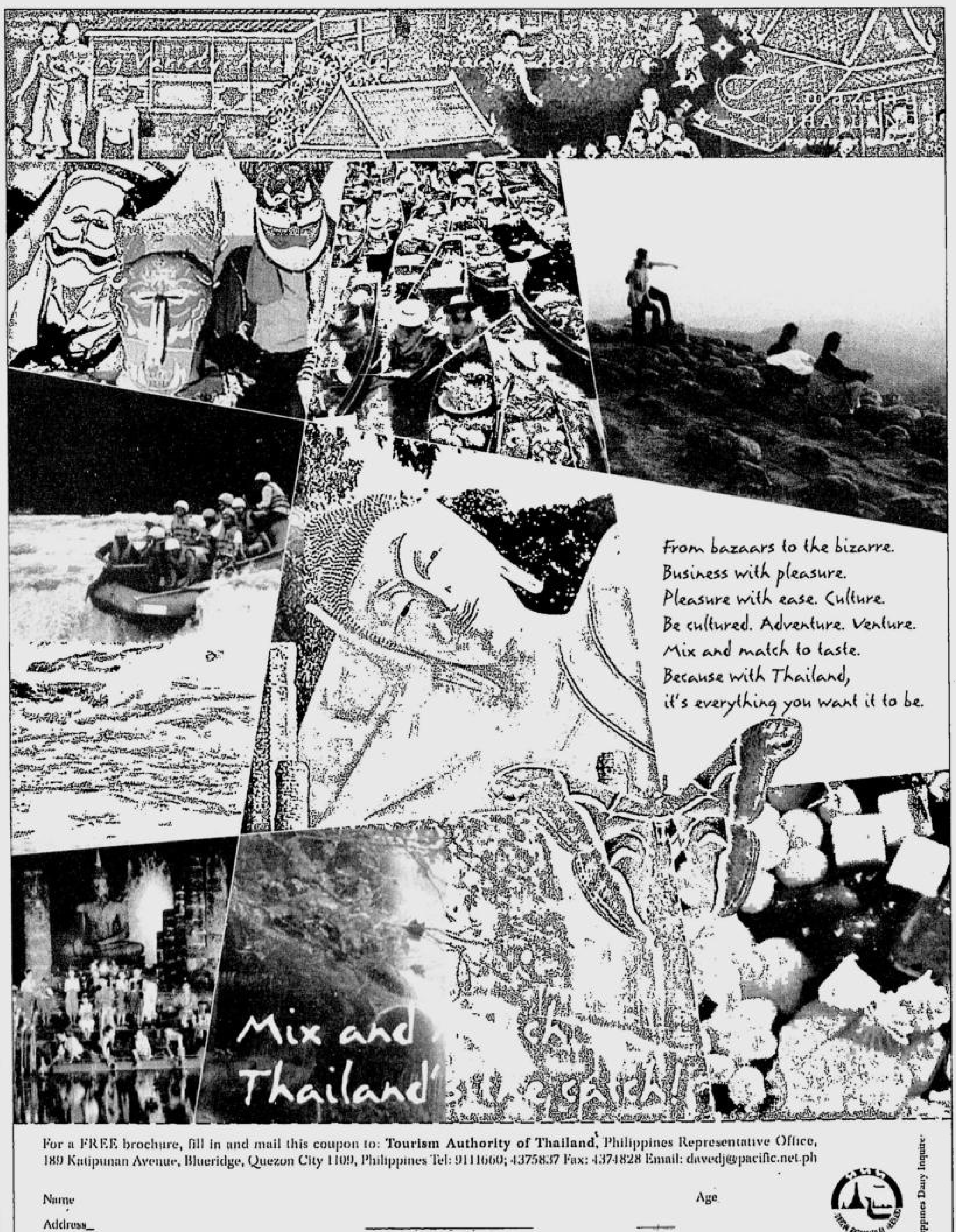
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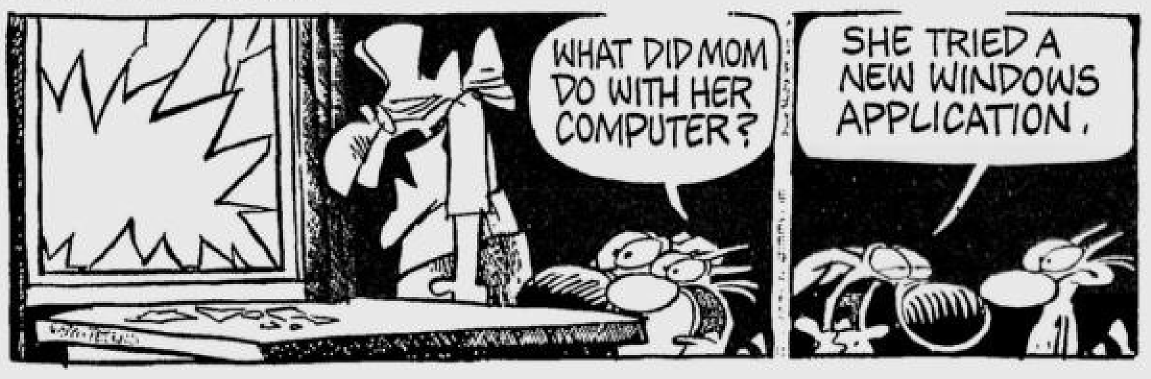
Philippines Daily Inquirer

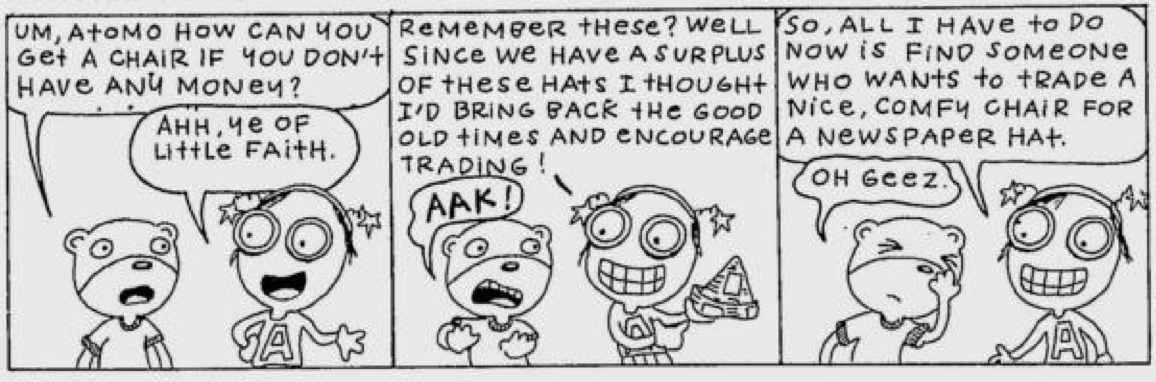
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHAT DID MOM DO WITH HER COMPUTER?
SHE TRIED A NEW WINDOWS APPLICATION.

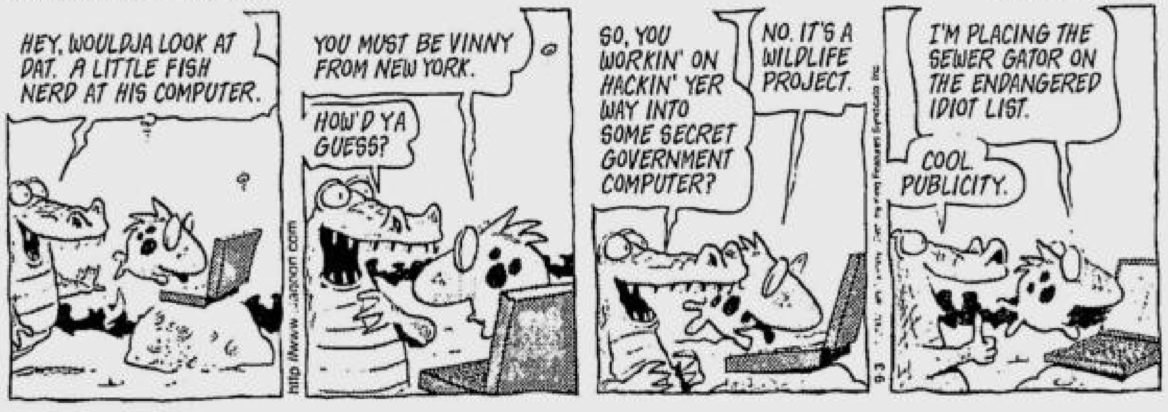
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UM, ATOMO HOW CAN YOU GET A CHAIR IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY?
AHH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH.
REMEMBER THESE? WELL SINCE WE HAVE A SURPLUS OF THESE HATS I THOUGHT I'D BRING BACK THE GOOD OLD TIMES AND ENCOURAGE TRADING!
AAK!
SO, ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS FIND SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO TRADE A NICE, COMFY CHAIR FOR A NEWSPAPER HAT.
OH GEEZ.

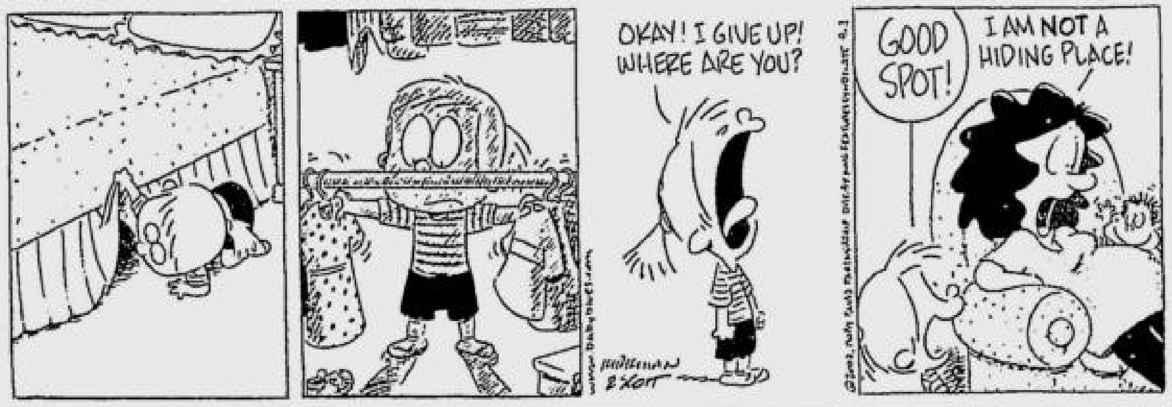
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, WOULDJA LOOK AT DAT. A LITTLE FISH NERD AT HIS COMPUTER.
YOU MUST BE VINNY FROM NEW YORK.
HOW'D YA GUESS?
SO, YOU WORKIN' ON HACKIN' YER WAY INTO SOME SECRET GOVERNMENT COMPUTER?
NO. IT'S A WILDLIFE PROJECT.
I'M PLACING THE SEWER GATOR ON THE ENDANGERED IDIOT LIST.
COOL. PUBLICITY.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY! I GIVE UP! WHERE ARE YOU?
GOOD SPOT!
I AM NOT A HIDING PLACE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Valerie Perrine, Charlie Sheen, Mort Walker, Al Jardine

Happy Birthday: You will have more opportunities than you know what to do with this year. Don't be afraid to take on a little extra work; your effort will pay off. Long hours are apparent, however, the results you get will be rewarding . Your ability to use precision in everything you do will save the day. Your numbers are 12, 16, 28, 31, 35, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone from your past may resurface. Don't forget the reasons why this person became history for you. Also, someone you live with is likely to cause you a little strife. Giving in will only result in lowered self-esteem.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Conflicts in the workplace will lead to a tense atmosphere. Abstain from gossip and vent to close friends. This can be a great day if you are true to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If there are children in your life, today they're bound to be contrary. It's better to laugh it off than to try to set them straight. If you haven't been careful about budgeting, you may suddenly find yourself in a tight spot.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Mood swings are in the forecast today, but shirking responsibilities will only heighten your anxiety. Since you'll be feeling erratic, it won't be difficult for others to upset you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's better to avoid a love triangle. Compensate by being self-indulgent. Focusing on health and beauty is a good idea. Pamper, primp and play.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may feel like being generous, but don't expect gratitude. Don't involve yourself in too much because your time and funds will slip through your fingers. Children may be the greedy, so don't spoil them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Loved ones may turn everything into a big problem, pushing you right off course. Just stay on task. Satisfaction will come from your own success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put yourself first and don't feel guilty. You owe yourself a vacation or at least a night to relax. You are in a creative cycle so it's important to allow yourself to develop something you feel strongly about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money is the issue today. Too many things you want to spend it on and not enough to go around. It may be time to start looking into long-term investments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If a lover is lagging behind and complaining, you may start feeling a little oppressed. A revolution may be in order. If it isn't working, you may want to sit down and have a talk.

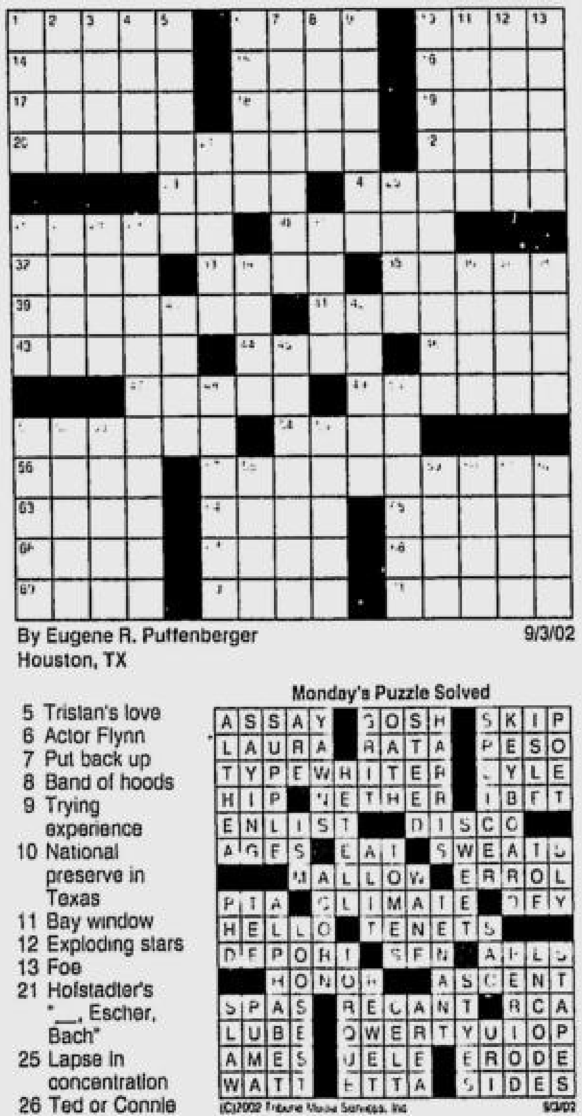
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful when planning your comings and goings, otherwise you might find yourself stranded. Avoid arguing with relatives for now. You aren't likely to win.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you can hang around a group of children for a while, you might find that their innocence rubs off on you. You'll be feeling creative and very in tune.

Birthday Baby: You will have the stamina and fortitude to plow through life. You will make everything look easy when actually it's your capacity for hard work and diligence that gets you where you want to go.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



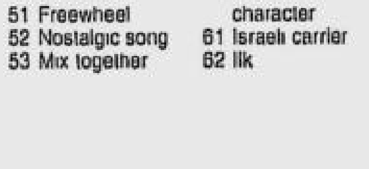
By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

9/3/02

ACROSS
1 Very, in music
6 Therefore
10 Skeleton piece
14 "Guys and __"
15 Bring up
16 Pig or cast follower
17 Texas shrine
18 Cleave
19 Donate
20 Colorado scenic attraction
22 Sports group
23 Pineapple firm
24 Actress Judd
26 Combined
30 Orchestral instruments
32 Profess
33 Superlative endings
35 Freeze over
39 Last Supper room
41 Dining-room linen
43 Swedish cash
44 Not kosher
46 Greek goddess of discord
47 Edible red seaweed
49 Most recent
51 Repair shoes
54 Ride the wind
56 Earthenware jar
57 HOMES
63 Port of Yemen
64 Staffs
65 Italian fascist Balbo
66 Swim alternative
67 La commedia dell' __
68 Sub detector
69 Turner and Williams
70 Scottish loch
71 Small, silvery fish

DOWN
1 Hebrew month
2 Go it alone
3 Bowl over
4 __ mater
5 Tristan's love
6 Actor Flynn
7 Put back up
8 Band of hoods
9 Trying experience
10 National preserve in Texas
11 Bay window
12 Exploding stars
13 Foe
21 Hofstadter's "__, Escher, Bach"
25 Lapse in concentration
26 Ted or Connie
27 At any time
28 Nevada city
29 Shoals off Newfoundland
31 Slave of the past
34 Solidifies
36 Irish homeland
37 Les Etats-
38 Hey you!
40 Greater omentum
42 G-sharp
45 Holds a grudge
48 Admirer of Betty Grable?
50 George of "Disraeli"
51 Freewheel
52 Nostalgic song
53 Mix together
55 Watering places
58 Spotted infrequently
59 Particle
60 Welles character
61 Israeli carrier
62 Ilk

Monday's Puzzle Solved


ASSAY GOSH SKIP
LAURA RATA PESO
TYPEWRITER LYLE
HIP NETHER IBET
ENLIST DISCO
AGES EAT SWEATS
WALLOW ERROL
PITA CLIMATE DEFY
HELLO TENETS
DEPORT SEN AILS
HONOR ASCENT
SPAS RECANT RCA
LUBE QWERTYUIOP
AMES ERODE
WATT ETTA SIDES

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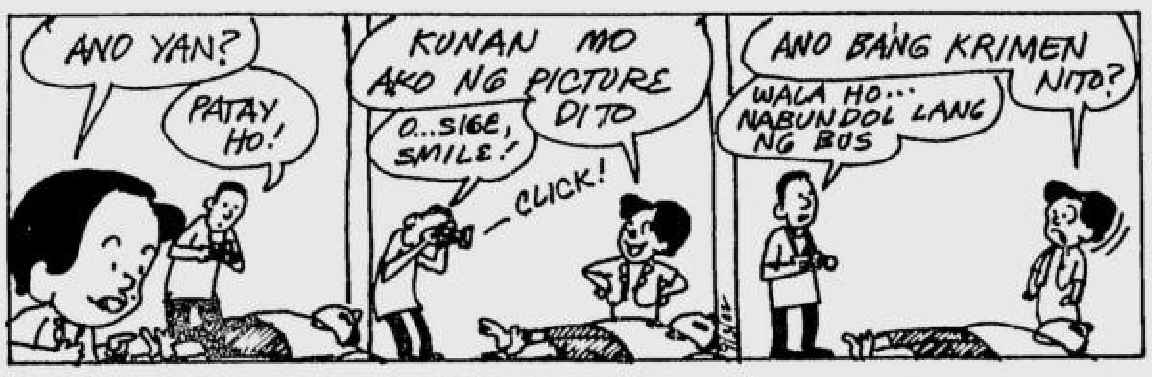
9/3/02

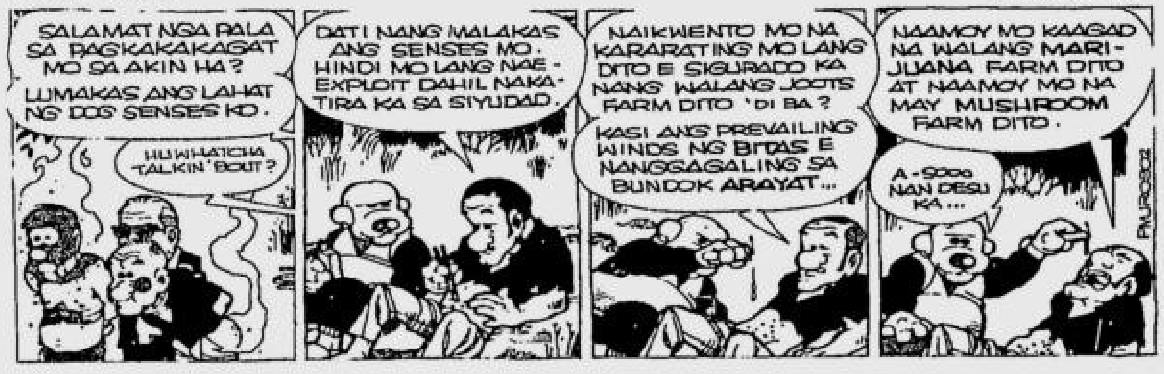
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANO YAN?
PATAY HO!
KUNAN MO AKO NG PICTURE DITO
O...SIGE, SMILE!
CLICK!
ANO BANG KRIMEN NITO?
WALA HO... NABUNDOL LANG NG BUS

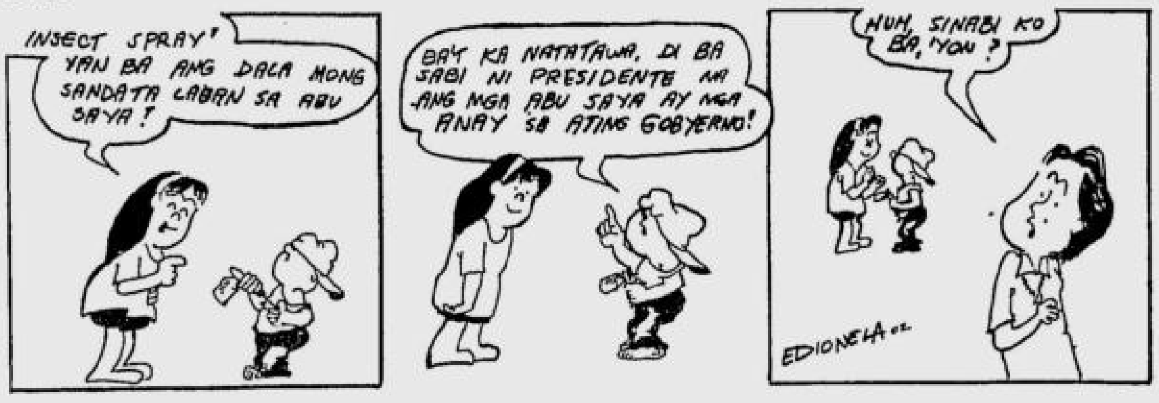
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SALAMAT NGA PALA SA PAGKAKAKAGAT MO SA AKIN HA?
LUMAKAS ANG LAHAT NG DOS SENSES KO.
HUWHATCHA TALKIN' 'BOUT?
DATI NANG MALAKAS ANG SENSES MO. HINDI MO LANG NAE-EXPLOIT DAHIL NAKATIRA KA SA SIYUDAD.
NAIKWENTO MO NA KARARATING MO LANG DITO E SIGURADO KA NANG WALANG JOOTS FARM DITO 'DI BA?
KASI ANG PREVAILING WINDS NG BITAS E NANGGAGALING SA BUNDOK ARAYAT...
NAAMOY MO KAAGAD NA WALANG MARIJUANA FARM DITO AT NAAMOY MO NA MAY MUSHROOM FARM DITO.
A-SOOO NAN DESU KA...
PMJR082

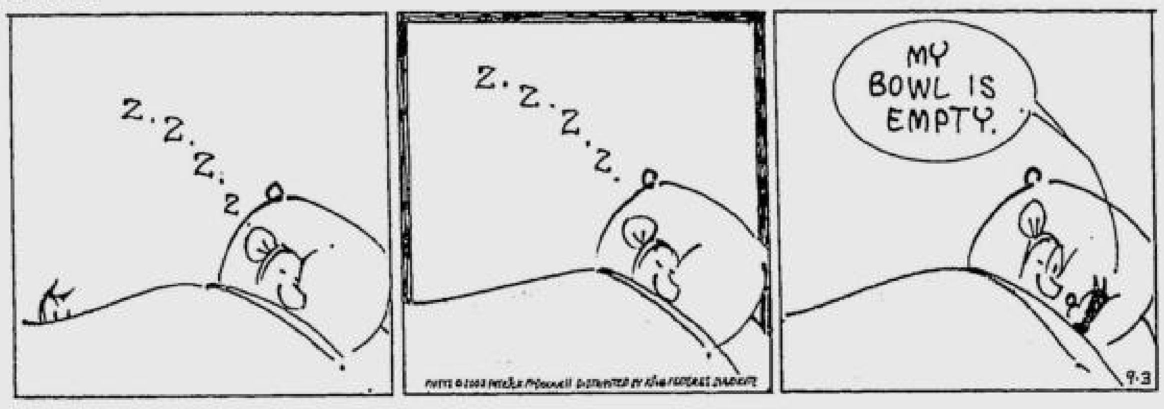
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


INSECT SPRAY? YAN BA ANG DALA MONG SANDATA LABAN SA ABU SAYA?
BA'T KA NATATAWA, DI BA SABI NI PRESIDENTE AH ANG MGA ABU SAYA AY MGA ANAY SA ATING GOBYERNO!
HUH, SINABI KO BA 'YON?
EDIONELA 02

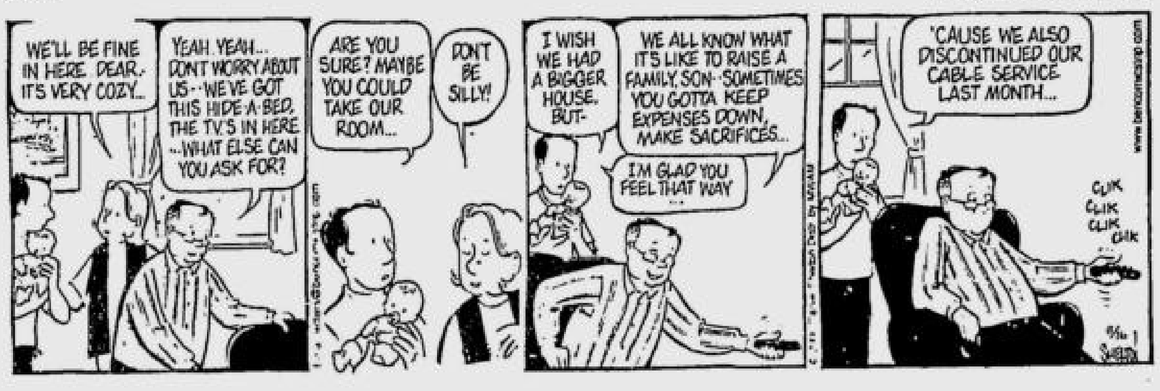
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Z.Z.Z.Z
Z.Z.Z.Z.
MY BOWL IS EMPTY.
9-3

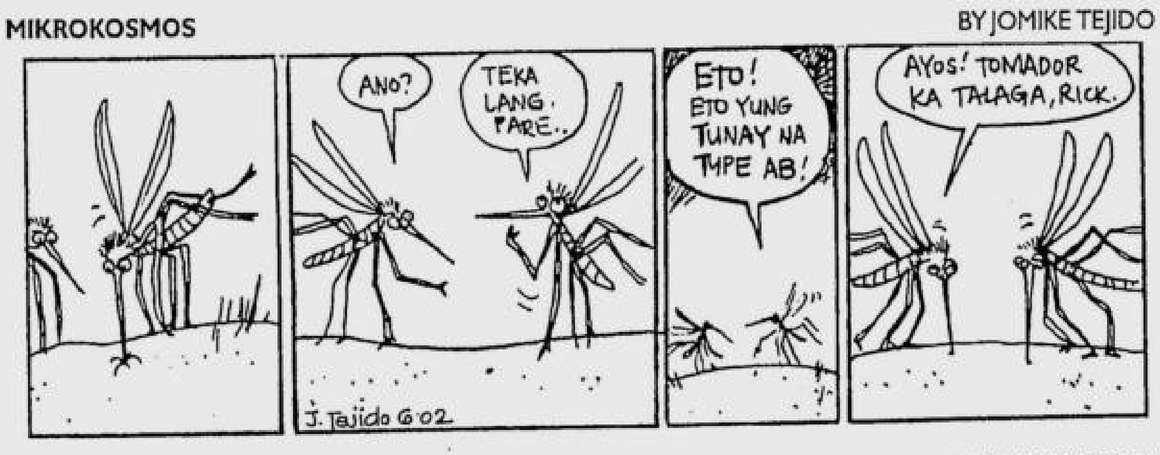
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WE'LL BE FINE IN HERE, DEAR. IT'S VERY COZY...
YEAH, YEAH... DON'T WORRY ABOUT US -- WE'VE GOT THIS HIDE-A-BED, THE T.V.'S IN HERE -- WHAT ELSE CAN YOU ASK FOR?
ARE YOU SURE? MAYBE YOU COULD TAKE OUR ROOM...
DON'T BE SILLY!
I WISH WE HAD A BIGGER HOUSE, BUT-
WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO RAISE A FAMILY, SON -- SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA KEEP EXPENSES DOWN, MAKE SACRIFICES...
I'M GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY
'CAUSE WE ALSO DISCONTINUED OUR CABLE SERVICE LAST MONTH...
CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK
www.bencomicstrip.com

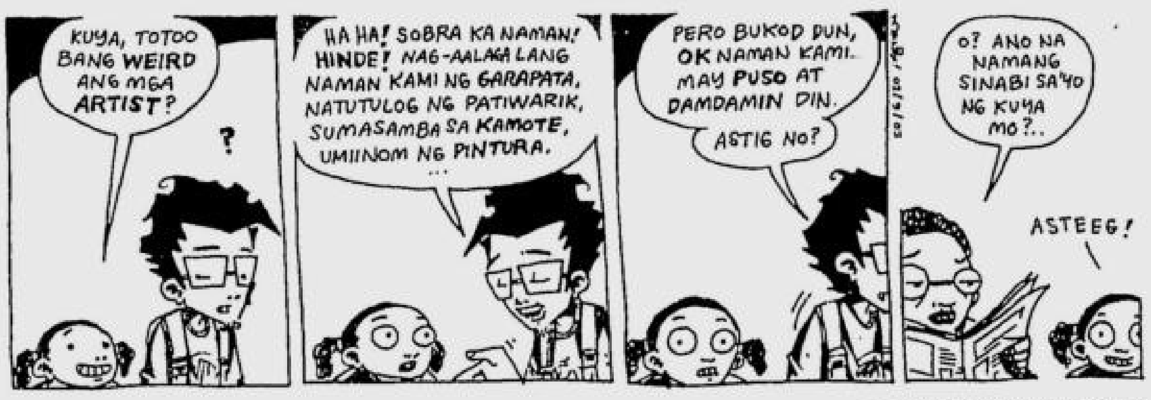
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO?
TEKA LANG, PARE..
ETO! ETO YUNG TUNAY NA TYPE AB!
AYOS! TOMADOR KA TALAGA, RICK.
J. Tejido 6·02

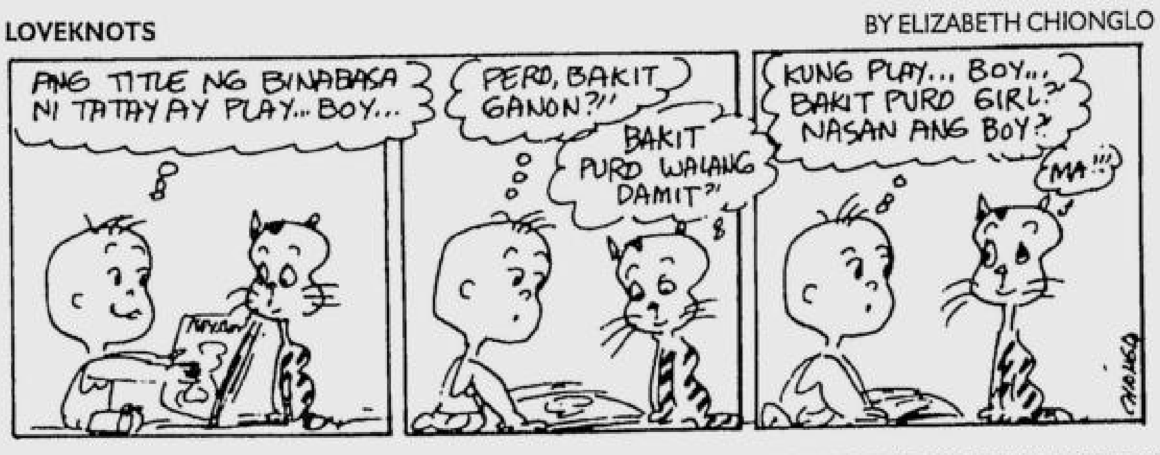
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KUYA, TOTOO BANG WEIRD ANG MGA ARTIST?
?
HA HA! SOBRA KA NAMAN! HINDE! NAG-AALAGA LANG NAMAN KAMI NG GARAPATA, NATUTULOG NG PATIWARIK, SUMASAMBA SA KAMOTE, UMIINOM NG PINTURA.
PERO BUKOD DUN, OK NAMAN KAMI. MAY PUSO AT DAMDAMIN DIN.
ASTIG NO?
O? ANO NA NAMANG SINABI SA'YO NG KUYA MO?..
ASTEEG!

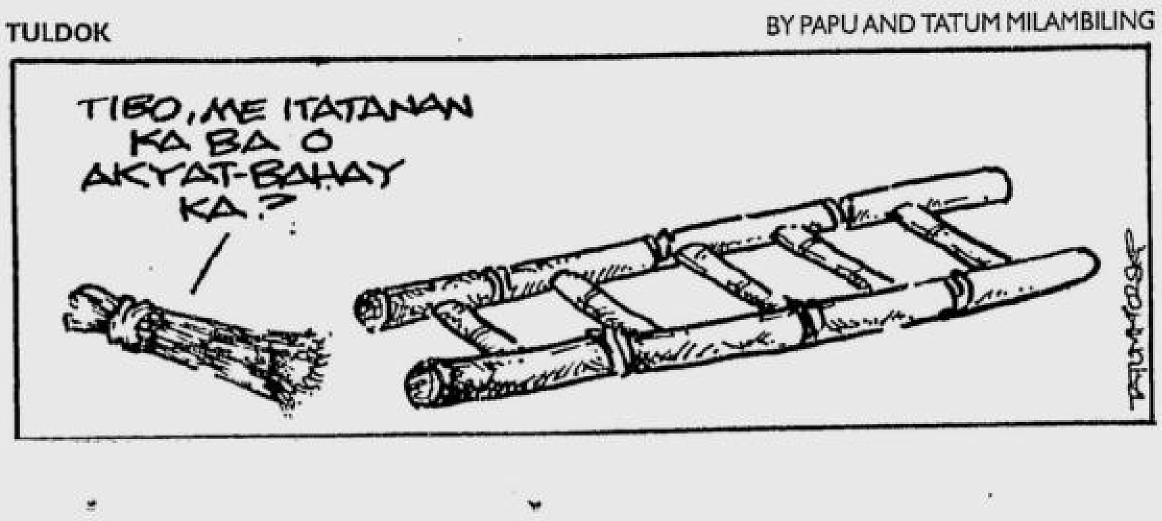
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG TITLE NG BINABASA NI TATAY AY PLAY...BOY...
PERO, BAKIT GANON?!
BAKIT PURO WALANG DAMIT?!
KUNG PLAY... BOY... BAKIT PURO GIRL? NASAN ANG BOY?
MA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TIBO, ME ITATANAN KA BA O AKYAT-BAHAY KA?
PAPU/TATUM

Dieter's guide to fine dining

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THE MOST frequent question I receive is: "What can I eat without compromising my dining pleasure?"

While it is challenging for most people to "watch their diet" when eating out, it isn't difficult for me at all. And I believe that if I can do it, you can, too. Any dietician will tell you that crash diets in the end can cause more harm than good. What is needed is a lifestyle change. In short, know what and how much to eat. Follow your food combinations strictly.

Lose weight

Plan A: Combine carbohydrates with veggies. Example: A plate of pasta with no meat/no seafood sauce. This combination will also allow you to have any dessert you wish. Yes, that means your favorite sweet temptation.

Here are some recommendations:

Italian

Arugula and garden greens or sautéed spinach

Capellini with pomodoro sauce (or spinach ravioli) plus extra cheese

Tiramisu or panacotta

(L'Opera, Anson Arcade, Paseo de Roxas corner Esperanza Street, Makati City; tel. 844-3283 or 887-5158; Caffe Maestro, 1780 Nicanor Garcia St. formerly Reposo St., Makati City, tel. 899-0943)

Chinese

E-fu noodles with mushrooms

Bean curd skin (mock Peking duck style)

Broccoli flowers in garlic sauce

Mango pudding

(Tin Hau, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, tel. 750-8888)

Japanese

Tani Salad

Steak teppanyaki/shrimp tempura

Sautéed bean sprouts (no rice or noodles)

Green tea ice cream

(Inahotei, Makati Shangri-La, tel. 813-8888; Edsa Shangri-La, tel. 633-8888; Zen/Furusato Restaurant, Glorietta 3, Makati City, tel. 892-5115)

Plan B: Combine protein with veggies. No carbohydrates allowed. You may also have dessert. (Stay away from high-starch vegetables, carrots and squash when using Plan B.)

Cream of tomato or lobster soup

Grilled sea bass with cauliflower and broccoli

A glass of white or red wine

Fruits in season a la mode/cheesscake

(Acqua, Lobby Level, Tower I, Enterprise Center corner Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, tel. 886-5768; Soleil, Greenbelt 2, Makati City, tel. 757-3600)

Flexibility

You can switch from A to B within the day for as long as they are three hours apart. Since Filipinos and Asians in general are rice eaters, it is easy to see that Plan A would be the more popular choice. And that translates to: rice, *pinakbet* without shrimp/*bagoong* or vegetables in coconut milk, or *kare-kareng gulay* or vegetarian *palabok*. *(Bahay Malabon, Anapolis Street, Greenhills, tel. 722-7543)*

And, because the Filipino palate is sweet, both plans allow you to include desserts as an inseparable part of meal time.

The promise

Considering you have been faithful to the food combinations, you can expect a gradual weight loss within two weeks. As with any eating plan, it will be your consistency and dedication that will determine your success.

Once you have reached your ideal weight loss, you will graduate to the next level, and that means greater freedom to consume anything you want.

Gain weight

For people with weight-gain problems, combine carbohydrates with protein and make sure you do not skip a single dessert. Enroll in a gym and embark on an exercise program to gain weight.

Moderation

Any nutritionist will say that the secret to keeping a trim figure is to eat everything in moderation. There are no taboos to food choices. The only rule is not to overeat.

How can you tell when you've had enough? Simple, you have to pass the belt/waistline test.

The test

At some point during meal time, you will feel your tummy pushing against your belt or skirt waist. First warning: stop. If you ignore this and continue to eat, you will soon burp. Second and final warning: stop.

Visualization and affirmation

Get your favorite dress (for women) or pair of pants (for men) that doesn't fit you anymore. Display it in an area where you can see it every day. Say to yourself: "I will fit into this very soon." However, in order to speed up your weight loss, you should exercise a minimum of three times a week, preferably enrolling in a weight-loss fitness program.

Water therapy

Each morning, drink two glasses of tepid water. Thirty minutes before meals, drink one glass of tepid water. Wait half an hour after meals before drinking another glass of water. This routine will cleanse and detox your system while curbing your appetite.

Eating is one of life's greatest pleasures. So the next time you dine, eat without fear and enjoy it fearlessly. Bon appetit!

Love and light!

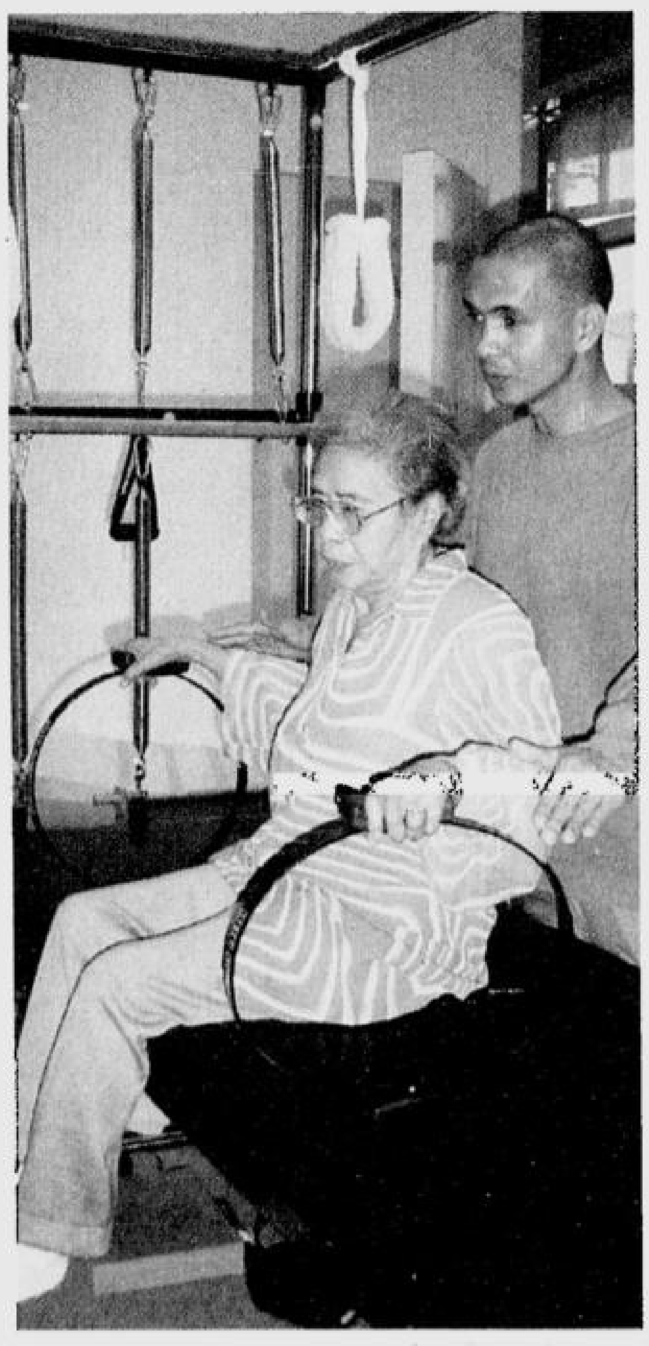
"Total Wellness," the body-mind-spirit workshop by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino, will soon be presented to the public. Tentative dates: Sept. 25, 27 and Oct. 2, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Schedule to be confirmed. Call 637-9653 or 892-6806.

"Forever Young" (revised edition) is now available at National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

Watch the author's beauty rituals at 8 a.m. daily on "Beauty In & Out," on "Unang Hirit," GMA 7.

Spine-tingling exercises

From page C1



NATIONAL Artist Leonor Orosa-Goquinco tries out Stott-Pilates.

strengthens abs. "The Stott Method, combined with a constant focus on torso stability throughout the workout and your everyday life, is what makes this method famous for yielding strong, flat muscles," she says. Secondly, balancing strength with flexibility not only gives a long, lean look but also allows the body to move with ease. An improved posture is another good reason to study this method.

The Stott-Pilates method recognizes and restores the important shock-absorbing features of the spine's natural curves. A heightened concentration is also enhanced. "By knowing how to control your muscles, you gradually strengthen the powerful mind-body connection," Aguila adds.

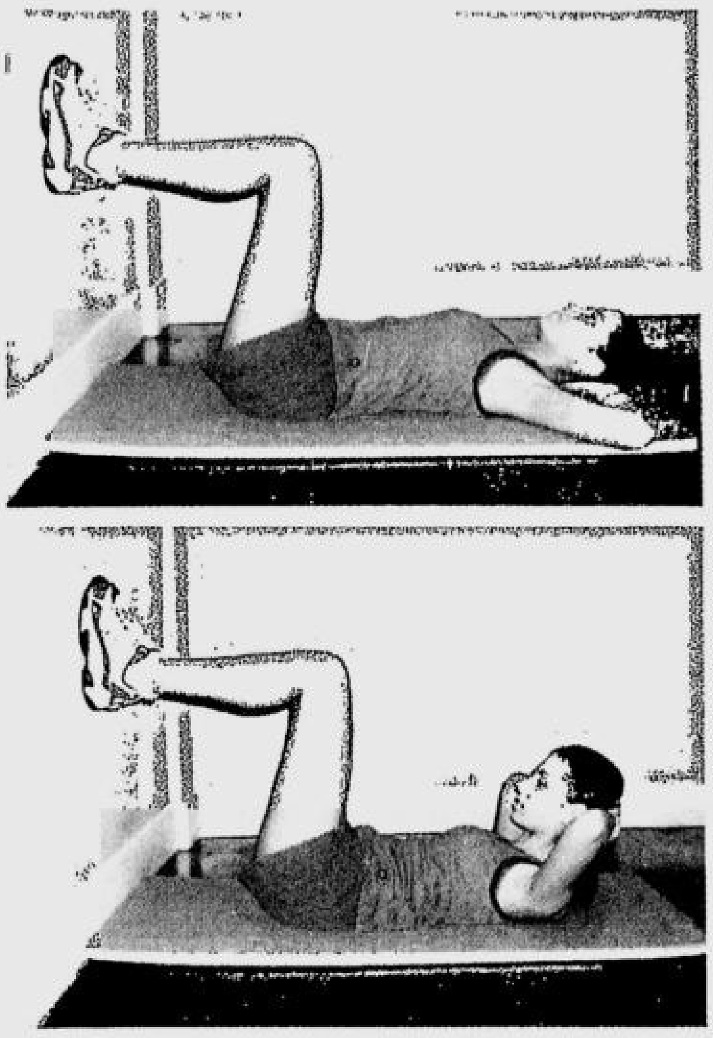
Lastly, athletic performance is improved. Dancers have long sworn by the Pilates-based exercise because of the precision performance, focus and injury prevention that they've achieved. Recently, Ultrafit magazine has reported that professional and amateur golfers and skaters have also noted a marked difference in their performance.

If that's not enough to convince you to take this method, visit the B + B studio and see its minimalist and modern interiors. Turning one's weaknesses into strengths in a peaceful, calming environment is more than enough reason to enroll in this program.

Call B + B Studio at 815-1009 or (0917) 899-BODY, or visit www.bbstudio.com.ph

E-mail the author at cbguballa @inquirer.com.ph

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Wall abdominal crunch

FIRMS and strengthens the abdominal muscles

Equipment:
An exercise mat, a wall or bench to lean your legs on

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back while keeping your feet on a wall, hip-width apart, with your knees in line with your hips.
2. Bring both hands underneath your head with your elbows out to the side.
3. Start the movement by contracting your abdominal muscles. You should feel like you are bringing the bottom of your ribcage closer to the top of your hipbones. You will feel the lower back pressing against the floor.
4. Stay in the contracted position for a few seconds. Slowly lower your upper body down to the mat.
5. Repeat.

Performance tips:
Avoid using your hands to pull your head and neck forward. Keep your elbows at the side of your head throughout the exercise. Avoid bringing them closer to your face as you curl your torso upward. Move slowly.

Repetitions:
Do anywhere from 8-15 repetitions. Do 1-3 sets.

Why your body resists weight loss

From page C4

to lose weight. Eat simple meals. Researchers have found out that people who do not eat a large variety of food (except fruits and vegetables) have an easier time losing weight.

This means it's okay to have three kinds of fruit available at home but not three kinds of dessert. Avoid one-type-food diets. You may lose weight initially but eventually, it will backfire on you.

Counterproductive

The body cannot tell the difference between famine and a self-imposed "crash diet." It does not realize that you are dieting to look good and lose excess weight. All it knows is that it is in danger of dying. As one weight-loss expert said, your body puts survival above all else, vanity included. To protect you from your own foolhardiness, your body lowers its metabolic rate to conserve energy by setting biochemical changes into motion.

One of the first changes is the activation and multiplication of fat-storing enzymes. The fat cells become more efficient at storing fat and less efficient at losing fat. Some studies have shown that severe dieting can reduce fat-releasing enzymes by 50 percent.

Crash dieting also forces your body to get the extra calories it needs by raiding its fat storage and by cannibalizing its own muscle tissue. The body, in effect, feeds on itself. Less muscle mass means you become less efficient at burning calories. When you go off the diet and eat normal amounts of food (a more typical reaction is to go on a binge), your body reacts by hoarding as much fat as it can just in case the "famine" happens again. No wonder people gain so much weight after a bout of crash dieting. This built-in protective mechanism ensured survival. If it were that easy to lose weight, the human race would have died out long ago.

An analysis of 43 studies on dieting found out that crash dieting doesn't damage your metabolism permanently. However, while your metabolism is struggling to return to normal, you are at risk for gaining even more weight than you originally lost.

Bottom line: Avoid extreme dieting and exercise. Lose weight slowly but surely, but eating properly and exercising regularly.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a seminar on Sept. 21 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman. Topics for gym instructors are "Exercise and Infection," "Preventing Foot and Ankle Injuries," "All About Cellulite" and "Why Women Gain Weight." Topics for aerobics instructors are "Kickboxing," "Stretch and Tone," "High-Low Impact" and "Latin Aerobics."

For novice instructors, there will be a workshop on "How to Create a Mind-Body Class" (a review of yoga and Pilates moves). Call 850-7647.

Watch "In Fitness and In Health" on Studio 23, Monday to Friday, 6-6:30 a.m.

For questions, past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

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Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
Rx MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Does MEDICard cover for dental braces?

For dental braces, you need a dental specialist called an Orthodontist. The services and materials required for such, same as with dentures and jacket crowns are not part of our standard dental healthcare program. But as an added service to our members, you may get these at discounted rates at MEDICard's Head Office Clinic in Makati City and also from any of our more than 250 accredited dentists nationwide.

Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard accredited specialist at Medical City General Hospital (MCGH) is **Dr. Jose Antonio M. Salud.** Dr. Salud is a Surgeon who subspecializes in Laparoscopic and Hepatobiliary surgery. He finished Medicine at UERM-MMC and took his residency training for General Surgery at MCGH and his training for his subspecialization at the Queen Mary University Hospital in Hong Kong. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at the UERM-MMC College of Medicine and the Chairman of the Internship and Residency Training Committee of MCGH. He is also a Fellow to the Philippine College of Surgeons and is a Diplomate and Board Examiner for the Philippine Board of Surgery. You may visit him for your consultation needs at Room 508 of the Medico Bldg., every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 to 5 in the afternoon.

For a MEDICard accredited Pediatrician at the World Citi Medical Center, look for **Dr. Rosanna Garcia-Enciso.** Tita Doktor, as she is to her patients, has more than 12 years of experience in her field of specialization. She is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas and took her pediatric residency training at the UST Hospital. She is a Diplomate to the Philippine Pediatric Society and a member to the Philippine Medical Association and the Quezon City Medical Society. She enjoys traveling and dining and has special interest in dancing. You may visit her for consultations at her clinic, Room 217 of the WCMC from Mondays to Saturdays, 10 AM to 12 noon.

The former president of the Zamboanga Del Sur Dental Society is MEDICard's accredited dentist, **Dr. Domingo B. Marasigan, Jr.**. Dr. Dodjie as he is known to his patients, finished his degree in dental medicine at the Southwestern University in Zamboanga City. He has over 12 years of experience in the practice of dentistry and joined MEDICard in 2000. He is also the Regional Coordinator (Region IX) of the Philippine Dental Association and is the current Vice President of the Pagadian Heights Jaycees. He is married to Dr. Ginn Lyn Marasigan, also a dental practitioner. You may visit Doc Domingo for your dental consultation needs at the Marasigan Dental and Orthodontic Clinic, Rizal Ave., Pagadian City from Mondays to Saturdays, 8:30 AM to 12 noon and then again from 1:30 PM to 6:30 in the evening.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salc edo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e -mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

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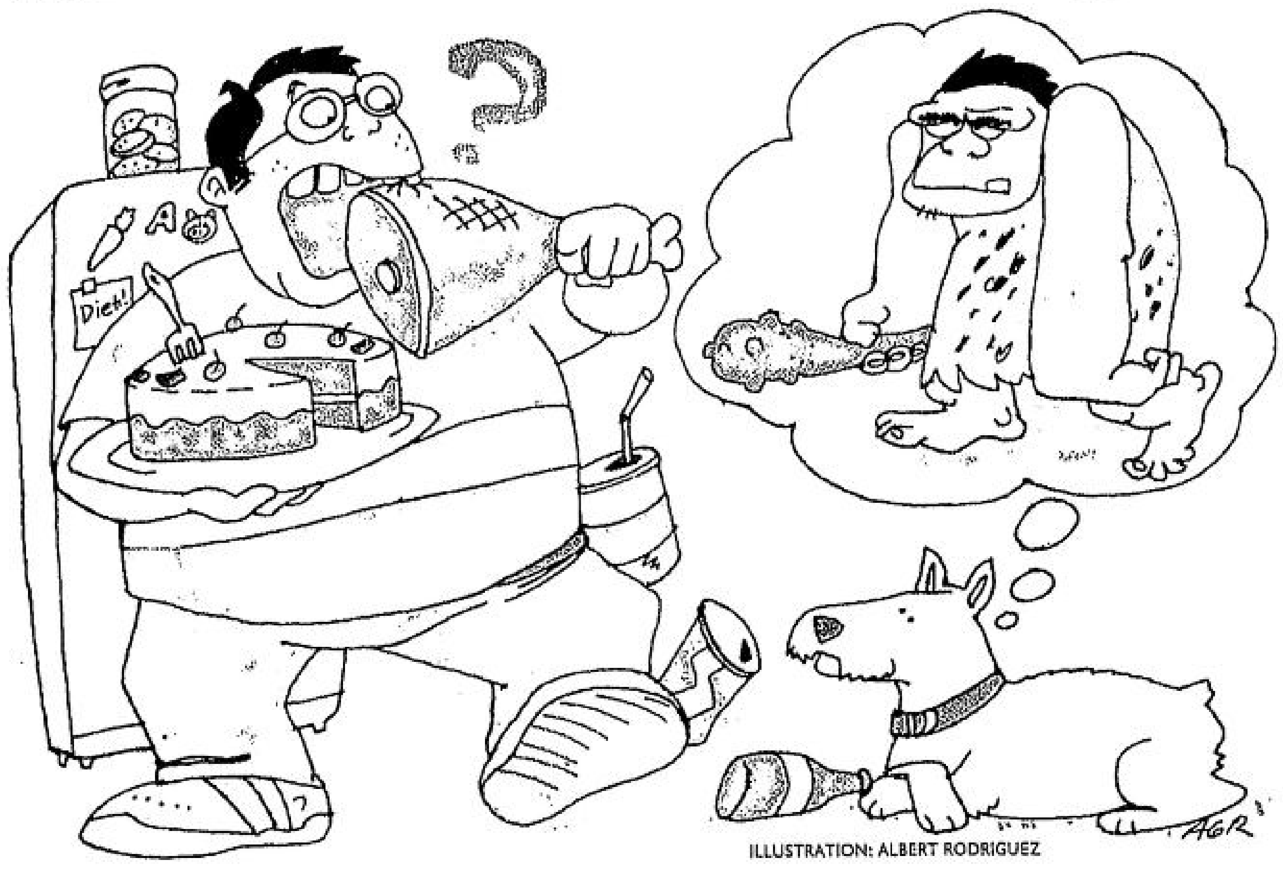
Why your body resists weight loss



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WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

LAST week, I wrote about the weight-loss program of Dr. Daniel Kirschenbaum as outlined in his book, "The Nine Truths about Weight Loss." One of the nine "truths," according to Kirschenbaum, is that your body will resist permanent weight loss because of biological forces that have evolved to make sure that we continue to exist as a species. A reader asked me to explain further about these built-in survival mechanisms.

Understanding why our bodies were designed to hold on to our fat is not meant to give you a cop-out excuse not to lose weight but to help you be more successful in controlling your weight.

Once you realize that you are not a "weak" person, a glutton, or someone with poor willpower, but rather a normal human being with a body whose main priority is survival, then you can let go of negative self-blaming attitudes and devise a meaningful action plan to deal with those biological forces.

Sweet tooth

Kirschenbaum gives three reasons we are literally born with a sweet tooth. "When we are hungry, sugar provides the quickest antidote... When humans or other animals are starving, they consistently show heightened preferences for very sweet foods. This, again, shows the body's orientation to satisfy extreme hunger and food deprivation quickly and effectively with sugar.

"Sweet foods are safe foods. Can you think of any examples of wild fruits or berries or vegetables that are sweet and also dangerous to eat? Probably not. If you find something hanging from a tree and it tastes sweet, it is almost certainly safe to eat. On the other hand, sour or bitter fruits or vegetables are much more likely to be poisonous.

"The body is programmed to eat large amounts of sugar or sweet foods whenever they are available. This made sense for hunter-gatherers; if they found something that tasted sweet, their bodies wanted to encourage them to eat large quantities of it."

Honey is a prized find in primitive societies like the Aborigines of Australia and the Bushmen of South Africa. They go out of their way to find the sweet stuff and consume large quantities of it.

Action plan: Don't skip meals so you don't become hungry and seek out sugary foods. Avoid processed foods high in sugar because the more you eat them, the more your body wants them.

Why you like fatty food

As revealed by the practices of primitive hunters, human beings like fatty food. The fattest parts of an animal are eaten first. Animal bones gathered from caves inhabited by Neanderthal men show that the marrow was carefully removed. This makes sense because animal fat is easier to eat than tough muscle. It is also the part that is the most flavorful. Intra-muscular fat makes meat juicier and moister. Lastly, fat is the densest source of calories at nine calories a gram compared to four calories for protein and carbohydrates, respectively.

Bottom line: Eating fatty food may have served its purpose before when food sources were scarce, but in today's society of abundance, food high in fat contains far more calories than your body can handle.

Binge-eating

The tendency to go on an eating binge doesn't just happen to people with bulimia (an eating disorder wherein someone binges and then vomits the food) or compulsive eating. Binge eating seems to be a survival mechanism. It is triggered by deprivation and periods of not having enough to eat. Since food was not always easy to find, a big appetite was advantageous. Primitive men would eat and store as many calories in one sitting as they could.

Bottom line: If you go on a starvation diet, a binge will not be far behind. Cut back on calories moderately so you don't feel deprived and trigger an eating binge.

At the buffet table

Food was not always as readily available as it is now. So if we were created like koalas that only eat eucalyptus leaves, we would have become extinct. We are designed to eat almost anything edible on this earth.

According to a report in the Tufts University Health and Nutrition Newsletter, human beings are genetically programmed for "sensory specific satiety." This simply means that if you keep eating the same kind of food, you get sick of eating it. The report explains it another way: The second chocolate bar never tastes as good as the first and might go unfinished.

That's why you eat more when you eat "family style" in a restaurant where everyone orders something different and you share all the dishes compared to when you order your own main course. This is the reason you pig out at an all-you-can-eat buffet.

It explains why people lose weight on one-type-of-food diets like the Cabbage Soup Diet or on a highly restrictive diet like the Atkins Diet, which forbids most carbohydrates. There is nothing magical about eating cabbage or protein only. No matter how much you love *adobo*, if you have it for breakfast, lunch and dinner, you will end up disliking the very sight and smell of it. You end up eating less from sheer boredom of the diet. You might think that these types of diets are the answer to all your weight loss problems, but unfortunately, your body will rebel.

Biological psychologist Marcia Pelchat tells of an experiment where people who drank nothing but a vanilla-flavored milk supplement drink and water for five days started to crave the opposite type of food flavor like steaks and pizzas rather than the same type of food flavor like ice cream, cookies and cake. Pelchat notes cravings might be the body's way of encouraging you to eat a more varied diet.

Now I know why I was never successful with the Atkins Diet. After a few weeks of eating mostly meat, eggs and cheese, I would crave for the opposite—sweet and starchy food.

Bottom line: Avoid buffets if you are trying

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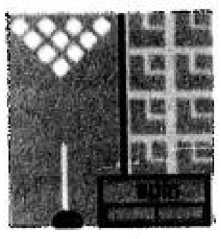

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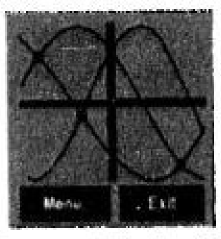

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